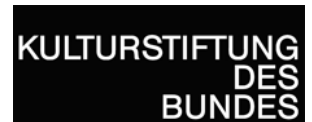


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of the German Federal Cultural Foundation



Dieses Projekt wird gefördert von der



Landeshauptstadt
München
Kulturreferat



Museum
Fünf Kontinente

A.M.

Kr.

K A R I N E R
W I M M E R
contemporary
art



Design histories between Africa and Europe

February 3–March 12, 2017

Opening: February 2, 2017, 6pm

Press conference: February 2, 2017, 11am, Architekturmuseum of the TUM

*As a Teenager, I've spent my time wondering why in sci-fi movies, every landscape, every object I could see was western or Asian based. I've finally understood that somewhere our legacy had been locked in the past, that we couldn't be "futuristic" in the eyes of our fellow European (...) We have to look behind our shoulders, get back to our traditions, seize the best of them and shape a future with it. This without forgetting we are part of the World, totally, unquestionably. The future is for me not only a matter of dialogue with the past but and beyond everything a dialog with the rest of the planet. **Kossi Aguessy***

The exhibition **Flow of Forms/Forms of Flow** focuses on design and design practices in Africa. The inventions of forms (*Forms*) are considered results of a mutual exchange between Africa and Europe, but also between every day and established fundamentals of design (*Flows*). The exhibition thereby connects to the *Global Turn* in art- and design history: situating design histories globally on one hand means to interpret design as a practice that can be applied everywhere, while on the other it aligns with a critical disposition towards to the Eurocentric gaze, which still often conceptualizes according to simple dichotomies like traditional/modern, artisanal/industrial, formal and informal. Consequently, multi-faceted design *histories* emerge instead of a design history penned from a biased (western) perspective. **Flow of Forms/Forms of Flow** pursues these complex interrelationships from a historical perspective, but also with attention to the present and possible futures, according to five different topic areas (stations) and across four exhibition venues.

Forms of Modernity (Museum Fünf Kontinente, Maximilianstraße 42)

Forms of Cooperation/Participation (Kunstraum, Holzstraße 10, RGB)

Material Morphosis (Stoff-Wechsel) (on the premises of Galerie Karin Wimmer, Amalienstraße 14)

Transform(N)ation and Speculative Forms (both in the Architekturmuseum of the Technische Universität München in der Pinakothek der Moderne, Barer Straße 40)

PRESS CONTACT

Ronja Merkel
Jana Katharina Walter
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The station **Forms of Modernity** invokes the beginning of the 20th century and examines the meaning of objects from Africa for the quest of forms in the field of applied art in Munich, Zurich, and Paris. At the same time, it also shows how closely reform design movements, like the Arts and Crafts Movement, were interwoven with economic and colonial premises. Contemporary design positions that not only make this migration of forms and concepts visible, but also reflect upon them critically, are also part of this station.

Forms of Cooperation/Participation deals with the social and political dimension of design and examines forms that evolve through cooperation, exchange, and dialogue as well as the *flow* of concepts, ideas, and practices. This section of the exhibition will pursue whether artifacts can make social or political dimensions perceptible. Forms of Cooperation/Participation also shows the results of a workshop with Cheick Diallo and Cucula in Bamako/Mali, which preceded the exhibition.

The station **Material Morphosis (Stoff-Wechsel)** brings the notion of material as a carrier of meaning—as well as the principle of its transformation (from one material into another)—to the fore. Because such translations have been predominantly negatively connoted and considered as mere imitation, copy, or deception, material and its morphosis plays an important role as a subject of African Art and is a common method in contemporary design. In a critical and sometimes playful vein, transformations and translations are here an expression of modernization, democratization, and re-evaluation.

Transform(N)ation is dedicated to design from the time of African Independence, ranging from the mid-1950s until the 1970s. The political and emancipatory facet of the design trade emerges quite clearly here, and the creative design possibilities for giving form to social liberation are determined. Forms of upheaval, *nation-building*, and identity emerge here in the tension between globally circulating concepts and recourse to one's own local traditions. These forms are expressed in architecture, the foundation of magazines, and in fashion and are framed by contemporary positions.

Speculative Forms deals with the development of forms in interplay with technology, economy, and society. Anchored in the present, these future scenarios are based on new technologies, materials and production methods, transnational networks, as well as alternative infrastructures: they transport social visions and can initiate paradigm change, but also have a shadowy, more dystopian aspect.

The parallel **presentation of stations** in different institutions makes it possible, on the one hand, to experience the *flow* of forms spatially and, on the other hand, invites a reflection on the different exhibition venues in which artistic positions and objects from Africa either have or will be presented historically and currently. In unexpected juxtapositions, new interconnections manifest themselves, which are supplemented by positions that grapple either critically or affirmatively with the *Forms of Flow*.

In Summer 2017, a catalog will be published that documents the exhibition and includes texts by international authors.

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Flow of Forms/Forms of Flow is a cooperation of the Institute for Art History at Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich with the Architekturmuseum of the Technische Universität München, Museum Fünf Kontinente, and Kunstraum. The exhibition will take place in these venues and on the premises of Galerie Karin Wimmer.

Curation: Prof. Dr. Kerstin Pinther and Alexandra Weigand, Dipl. Des./M.A. with Art History Students at LMU: Katharina Ehrl, Sonja Hull, Ronja Merkel, Zoe Schoofs, Mareike Schwarz, Agnes Stillger, Jana Katharina Walter, Niklas Wolf, Nicola Zierhut. Curatorial Assistants: Katharina Ehrl M.A., Agnes Stillger M.A.

Advisers Museum Fünf Kontinente: Dr. Stefan Eisenhofer, Karin Guggeis M.A.

Project Partners: Cheick Diallo/Diallo Design (Bamako, Mali) and the Berlin model project CUCULA.

Participating Artists and Designers: David Adjaye, Kossi Aguessy, Karo Akpokiere, Kader Attia, Nora al-Badri & Jan Nikolai Nelles, Black Coffee, Paolo Cascone, Cladlight, Sonya Clark, Matali Crasset & Bulawayo Home Industries, Cucula, Cheick Diallo, Dokter and Misses, Formafantasma, Front & the Siyazama Project, Fundibots, Eric van Hove, Yinka Ilori, Jean Katambayi Mukendi, Wanuri Kahiu, Markus Kayser, Lumkani, Abu Bakarr Mansaray, Haldane Martin, Michael MacGarry, Ernst May, Emo de Medeiros, Vincent Michéa, Laduma Ngxokolo, Palash Singh for STEP/The New Basket Workshop, Simone Post, Rethaka, Studio Sikoki, Kër Thioassane, Fatimah Tuggar, Obiora Udechukwu, Marjorie Wallace for Mutapo Pottery, Jules Wokam.

Sponsors: The exhibition was supported within the framework of the Federal Cultural Foundation's TURN Fund. Further funders include the Municipal Department of Arts and Culture, Munich; Alfried Krupp von Bohlen and Halbach Foundation and the Freundeskreis of the Institute of Art History.

Duration: February 3–March 12, 2017

Press conference: February 2, 2017, 11am, Architekturmuseum of the TUM

Opening February 2, 2017

4.30pm–5.30pm 'Preview' at Museum Fünf Kontinente, Maximilianstraße 42, with Dr. Stefan Eisenhofer (Head Africa Department)

6pm Opening at the Architekturmuseum of the TUM at Pinakothek der Moderne,

Barer Straße 40, Speakers:

Prof. Dr. Andres Lepik (Director of the Architekturmuseum)

Dr. Anne Fleckstein (German Federal Cultural Foundation)

Prof. Dr. Kerstin Pinther & Alexandra Weigand Dipl. Des./M.A. (Curators)

From 7pm the Kunstraum and Galerie Karin Wimmer will be open. Welcome by the students.

February 3, 2017 Artist Talks

2pm Jean Katamayi Mukendi (Architekturmuseum)

3pm Alafuro Sikoki (Architekturmuseum)

5pm Cheick Diallo (Kunstraum)

6pm Cucula (Kunstraum)

Website: <https://formflowblog.wordpress.com>

Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/flowofforms/>

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