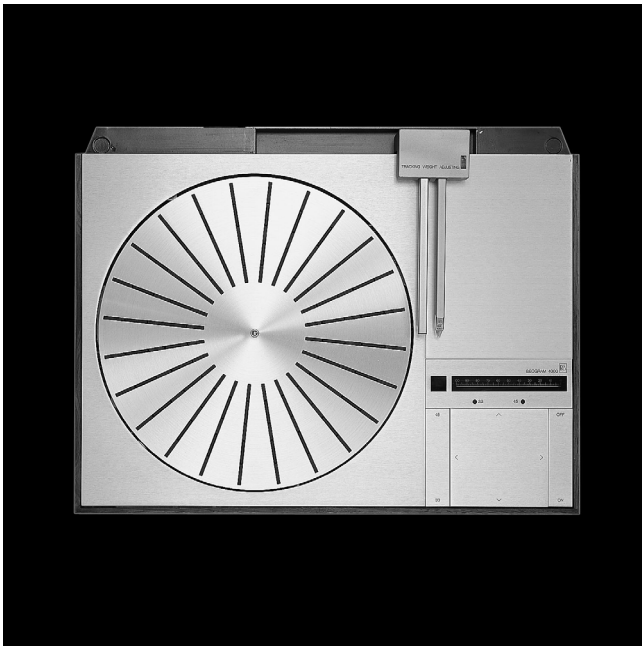


The Danish Museum of Decorative Art



Plattenspieler von Bang & Olufsen



Autovona

The Danish Museum of Decorative Art is among Scandinavia's pre-eminent exhibition venues for Danish and international craft and design. The museum and its collections, library and archives constitute the main institution for studies of design history in Denmark. The Danish Museum of Decorative Art is also a contemporary museum. It collects and documents current trends within craft and design.

The Danish Museum of Decorative Art's collections – the most comprehensive of their kind in Denmark – comprises decorative art, crafts, and industrial design from the Western world dating back to the late Middle Ages and up to the present. The collections also extend to Eastern Asia, particularly China and Japan, from prehistoric times up to today. In recent years, special emphasis has been placed on Danish decorative art and design from the 20th and 21st centuries.

At present, the following areas are available: 20th Century Design, The Design Studio, Japan and China, Europe circa 1500-1800, the Textile Collection Study Room, beyond all bounds – Art and Craft 1880-1910 and the Study Collection of European Faience and Porcelain 1700-1880.

Beyond all bounds – Art and Craft 1880-1910

The World Exhibitions held during the last half of the 19th century became the key international venue showcasing the new "Art Nouveau" style, which was most powerfully manifested in crafts. The period also brought the great breakthrough for Danish crafts, both domestically and internationally.



Figurines, ca. 1790

A circle of Danish artists contributed to the World Exhibitions with great success, creating a high international profile for Danish craftsmanship for the first time. Several of these artists were the offspring of some of the leading artists of the Danish Golden Age.

For example, M.G. Bindsbøll, who designed Thorvaldsen's Museum, was the father of the architect and ceramic artist Thorvald Bindsbøll, and the painter P.C. Skovgaard was the father of no less than three of the leading figures of the 1890s generation: Joakim, Niels, and Suzette (Skovgaard) Holten.

The exhibition at the Danish Museum of Decorative Art shows part of the museum's acquisitions of modern international decorative art from the World Exhibition in Paris 1900, as well as examples of Danish crafts from 1880 onwards to the 1900s with Thorvald Bindsbøll as a central figure.



Meissen

The inspiration from Japanese and French crafts is accentuated in the exhibition through examples from the museum's rich collections, including ceramics by Paul Gauguin. The exhibition provides some impression of the originality and lavish imagination that characterised the period, ushering in the 20th century.



Willumsen: Family



Daum

The Study Collection of European Faience and Porcelain 1700-1880

From the time it was founded in 1890 and up to the present day, The Danish Museum of Decorative Art has acquired approximately 3 000 ceramic objects dating from the period 1700-1880. More than 120 manufacturers are represented in the rich collections, which illustrate the development of ceramic culture in Europe from the first trials and errors to the establishment of industrial production proper. Many of the key pieces are featured in the museum's permanent displays, and the Study Collection now makes the entire remainder of the collection available to the general public. A source of delight and contemplation.

Current Special Exhibitions

Main Exhibition – Birth of the Cool: The Heritage of Bauhaus: The Ulm School of Design and Danish Product Design: Until January 9th, 2005

The Hochschule für Gestaltung in Ulm (1953-68) was founded as a continuation of the interwar Bauhaus style, arriving in a ruined Germany where design was dictated by necessity. The HfG Ulm grew from being an art school with an industrial outlook to becoming the world's first research-based design school, sought out by scientists and students from all over the globe.

Outside of design circles, the school became known for its stringent, sober, and minimalist design of everything from record players and canteen cutlery to dentist's equipment and train timetables. The HfG students brought an ascetic, laboratory-like, and radically functionalist idiom to bear in their work for companies such as Audi, Lamy, Gardena, and Zwilling. The formalist less-is-more-design became an international product style that was refined in the 1970s by companies such as Bang & Olufsen; a style which is currently cultivated by large global companies like Apple Computers.

Birth of the Cool was arranged in co-operation with the Ulmer Museum/HfG-Archiv Ulm and is the first exhibition ever to document design processes from the HfG. It presents backgrounds, sketches, models, solutions, student projects, and the staff's research projects. A broad selection of cool design produced by German enterprises from the 1920s onwards to the breakthrough of postmodernism documents the German style. Comparisons of Danish and German product designs from the post-war years show that Danish product designers were also cool. In the spring of 2004, a group of students from Danmarks Designskole and The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Art's School of Architecture addressed the validity and currency of the Ulm methods today – the exhibition includes selected projects.

Summary

Das dänische Kunstgewerbe Museum gehört zu den wichtigsten Ausstellungsarten für dänisches und internationales Kunstgewerbe in Skandinavien. Es dokumentiert Entwicklungen auf diesem Gebiet vom Mittelalter bis zur Gegenwart in Europa und verwahrt auch besonders schöne Exponate aus China und Japan. Das Museum mit seinen Sammlungen, der Bibliothek und dem Archiv stellt die führende Institution für die Geschichte des dänischen Designs dar. Das Museum zeigt wichtige Beispiele von dänischem Kunstgewerbe im Jugendstil, das durch die Weltausstellungen des 19. Jh. bekannt wurde. Sonderausstellungen werden regelmäßig gezeigt: z.Z. ist eine Ausstellung zum Thema Ulmer Design im Bauhaus-Stil zu sehen, bis Ende des Jahres werden fünf weitere Sonderausstellungen folgen.