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Dessau-Roßlau,  
11 May 2021

1  
of  
3

A contribution to the initiative New European Bauhaus:  
„Workshops for the Whole Earth“ at the Bauhaus Dessau

*What can we still learn from the Bauhaus today in light of the almost planetary challenges of designing our living environment? This is the question addressed by the Workshops for the Whole Earth, to which the Bauhaus Kooperation Berlin Dessau Weimar invites people to the Bauhaus Dessau on 4 and 5 June 2021. As a contribution to the initiative New European Bauhaus of the European Commission, this online forum of design education is the starting point for a European initiative that develops building blocks for workshops of post-fossil, post-disciplinary design for schools, educational projects and universities.*

The institutions working together in the Bauhaus Kooperation Berlin Dessau Weimar – the Bauhaus-Archiv Berlin, the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation and the Klassik Stiftung Weimar – are more than mere places for collecting, communicating and preserving the Bauhaus heritage. For these institutions, the comprehensive material legacies of the avant-garde school are an ideal basis for contemporary education, learning and information programmes, in which making and searching, tinkering and experimenting, researching and designing intertwine.

Just as the Bauhaus responded to the challenges of industrial modernity by founding a radical educational institution for design, so today nuclei for alternative models of a socially and ecologically responsible production, fabrication and design are developing in Europe's design, art and architecture schools. The starting point for many programmes and initiatives in Europe that face up to design responsibility in view of the threats to our planet is often their own practice of making, of material-based shaping, the crafts: after all, this is associated with the appreciation of local resources, places of knowledge and cultural practices as well as with ethical and ecological aspects of design activity and collective production.

The *Workshops for the Whole Earth* forum is an invitation to discussion and to exchange between a wide variety of transcultural educational initiatives, schools, programmes and projects, which associate the legacy of the European art school reform movements with a mission for alternative forms of design education in the 21st century. While their workshops were historically incorporated in the national competition for European and global dominance in the industrial age, the material-based educational experiments, which meet in the Workshops for the whole earth and which are oriented towards local resources and methods of making for the common good, present approaches to transnational ecological cultures of making.

The event – developed together with international designers, researchers, architects and artists – is a prelude to further conversations with institutions, initiatives and stakeholders across Europe. The objective of these conversations is to have building blocks of a curriculum of Workshops for the whole earth, which in a way of a travelling experimental workshop will be linked up with and further developed at universities and initiatives, cultural institutions and academies all over Europe. The kick-off event in Dessau creates a platform of transcultural encounters of pluriverse post-disciplinary cultures of making and movements searching for the design of a different culture of nature. Pluriverse post-disciplinary cultures of making and movements searching for the design of a different culture of nature will meet in five workshop clusters.

The event will take place via Zoom. Registration:  
[bauhaus-dessau.de/en/workshops-for-the-whole-earth](http://bauhaus-dessau.de/en/workshops-for-the-whole-earth)

Press release

The *Workshops for the Whole Earth* will be presented to the media in an online press conference on 4 June 2021, at noon. Please register here: [zoom.us/meeting/register/tJErFuyhrTMqG9BwrBJqaxOLNxDXyevKFK1](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJErFuyhrTMqG9BwrBJqaxOLNxDXyevKFK1)

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Dessau-Roßlau,  
11 May 2021

2  
of  
3

## P r o g r a m m e   H i g h l i g h t s

### Friday, 4 June 2021

4 p.m.

#### Welcome

with Rainer Robra, Chairman of the Foundation Council and Minister for Culture of the State of Saxony-Anhalt, and Annemarie Jaeggi and Regina Bittner for the Bauhaus Kooperation Berlin Dessau Weimar

4:30 p.m.

#### Can Bauhaus help us save the Planet? A public debate.

with Maria Riskova (Design researcher and member of the High Level Round Table of the New European Bauhaus Initiative), Hicham Khalidi (Director of the Jan Van Eyck Academy in Maastricht) and Regina Bittner (chair)

6 p.m.

#### Workshop 1: Taking up the thread

Host: Aleksandra Kedziorek (Poland), historian of art and architecture, curator and editor

Workshop knowledge is post-disciplinary: it is body-bound, haptic, non-cognitive knowledge that enables thinking in making. From design projects and initiatives that engage in local cultures of making and European craft traditions as new forms of collective design to the “craft of translation” in performative and participatory design education programmes.

### Saturday, 5 June 2021

9:30 a.m.

#### Workshop 2: Alternative prototypes and critical objects

Hosts: mischer'traxler studio (Austria), product designers

One key focus of the Bauhaus was the development of prototypes based on the logic of industrial production. Today, global industry has to be questioned and has to change. New prototypes and objects are emerging that replace (harmful) materials and manufacturing methods, offer local alternatives and sometimes create new production processes. Thanks to speculative visions and creative imagination new things emerge. Also the consequences of the industrialization have to be examined. This includes objects that intervene with the everyday life of our thing-culture and promote critical access to the way we consume and use everyday objects. Objects that reflect information, point out conditions and convey facts in a tangible way.

11:30 a.m.

#### Workshop 3: Do it yourself: making as collective self-empowerment

Hosts: Basurama (Spain), team of artists and architects

Maker movements and fab labs base upon do-it-yourself principles; they strengthen communities through engaged making and bring together a variety of small manufacturers, inventors, amateurs and repairers. Local crafts

Bauhaus Dessau

Press release

often combine with new digital technologies. Digital tools are not only changing the way of making, but also the way we think about making. Alternative models of making and selling in online craft communities are emerging, linking crafts knowledge and technologies.

2 p.m.

Workshop 4: The workshop as a biotope: designing material cycles and material flows

Host: Marina Otero Verzier (Spain), architect, Director of Research and Development at Het Nieuwe Instituut in Rotterdam

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Workshops are themselves biotopes of coexistence and the alternation of the most diverse aggregate states. They are laboratories of material cycles: raw materials and tools, discarded things as waste and shaped things as draft, traditional skills and permanent venture are in constant interaction, not the product but a permanent, hybrid process of becoming are their principle (for example schools of alternative agriculture, material laboratories, re-use workshops, etc.).

4 p.m.

Workshop 5: Botanizing on the asphalt

Host: Friedrich von Borries (Germany), architect, Professor of Design Theory at the University of Fine Arts in Hamburg

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Movements and initiatives on urban agriculture, gardening and self-help-oriented settlement characterize the big metropolises. They tie in with settler schools and life reform movements, land reform and cooperative projects that accompanied modern urban development. In light of the climate crisis, questions of how to deal with land as a scarce and threatened commodity for the common good have taken centre stage. In urban workshops, activists shape an approach of post-disciplinary urban design whose engagement comes closer to that of foresters, gardeners, landscape architects and understands planning as care and cultivation of the soil.

3  
of  
3

5:30 p.m.

Roundup: Workshops for the whole earth, the curriculum as an assemblage

The five thematic sessions will be complemented by Agents Talks, in which Bauhaus Agents will enter into dialogue with European cultural institutions on questions of cultural education and communication in the field of design making.