

Press release, 2 December 2016

## EXHIBITIONS AT DESIGN MUSEUM IN 2017

The centenary of Finnish independence will be celebrated next year at Design Museum with both domestic and foreign exhibitions. In the spring, the museum will open its completely renewed collections exhibition together with an extensive overview of contemporary Finnish design. The summer season will feature Danish design and in the autumn there will be an exhibition on design in California produced by Design Museum of London, which has recently opened.

### Utopia Now – The Story of Finnish Design, opening on 27 January 2017

In honour of the centenary of Finnish independence in 2017, Design Museum will open its completely renewed collections exhibition. This exhibition presents the integral role of design in the evolution of the Finnish welfare state. It has five themes illustrating the history of design through living stories. The exhibition's digital applications permit the display of materials that have not been shown before and can provide amounts of information many times greater than previously. They will also enhance and deepen the exhibition experience by taking into account the museum's different groups of users, from tourists to schoolchildren.

### Enter and Encounter – 24 March –24 September 2017

Enter and Encounter is a joint exhibition produced by Design Museum and the Finnish Association of Designers Ornamo and displaying contemporary Finnish design after Helsinki's Design Capital Year of 2012. This optimistic exhibition focuses on the future, asking how design challenges the present and shapes things to come. Its works, projects and initiatives are responses to change or the need for change. They create phenomena, offer perspectives and lay the basis for new attitudes and practice in a global context. The title of the exhibition invites visitors to encounter changes in design and society with an open mind and in a positive spirit.

### California, 10 November 2017 – 4 March 2018

“Designed in California” is the new “Made in Italy”. While California’s mid-century modernism is well documented, this is the first exhibition to examine the state’s current global reach. Picking up the story in the 1960s, the exhibition charts the journey from the counterculture to Silicon Valley’s tech culture. Its central idea is that California has

pioneered tools of personal liberation, from LSD to skateboards and iPhones. This ambitious survey brings together political posters, personal computers and self-driving cars but also looks beyond hardware to explore how user interface designers in the Bay Area are shaping some of our most common daily experiences. The exhibition reveals how this culture of design and technology has made us all Californians.

## Gallery exhibitions in 2017

**Pauliina Pöllänen**

**Half Full**

**27 January – 12 March 2017**

Design Museum Helsinki has invited ceramic artist Pauliina Pöllänen (born 1983) to hold her first major solo exhibition in Finland. Having graduated in 2012 from the National Academy of the Arts in Oslo, Pöllänen is known for her abstract ceramic sculptures. The exhibition will feature work from periods spent in Philadelphia and London (2015–2017). Also on show will be her ceramic sculpture *When the Pike Sang, the Birds Were Still* originally made for a fountain during her artist residency at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

### **100 Objects from Finland, 24 March – 29 May 2017**

What objects describe best the story of Finland and Finnish identity during the country's 100 years of independence? One object from each year of independence was chosen for this exhibition. The stories of the items describe Finnish identity with everyday, industrial, innovative and humorous examples. The exhibition project was launched and managed by the Finnish Institute in Estonia. After Helsinki, this exhibition will go on tour to Tallinn, Oslo, Madrid and Riga. Its curators are author and art historian Anna Korelainen and designer Pekka Toivanen.

### **Margrethe Odgaard, 9 June – 27 August 2017**

Danish designer Margrethe Odgaard (born 1978) received the Torsten and Wanja Söderberg Prize, the world's largest design prize, in 2016. The prize exhibition displays the work of Odgaard, who has specialised in textile design, with the core aspects of investigating colour, tactile properties and patterns. The designer has studied at the Royal Danish Academy of Art and the Rhode Island School of Design in the United

States. Odgaard has designed for Georg Jensen Damask, Muuto, Ikea, Hay and Skagerak.

### **One Billion Scissors Sold – One Billion Stories Told 50 Years of Fiskars Scissors, 7 September–29 October 2017**

Olof Bäckström's orange-handled scissors will celebrate their 50th anniversary. Developed in 1967, they became the world's first scissors with plastic handles and went on to world-wide popularity over the next five decades. This exhibition celebrates the sales of over a billion of these scissors. The exhibition is part of the programme of Helsinki Design Week 2017.

### **The Kaj Franck Design Prize, 10 November 2017–14 January 2018**

Instituted in 1992, the Kaj Franck Design Prize is one of the most highly regarded prizes in the field of design in Finland. It is awarded to a designer or team of designers for innovatively creating high-standard industrially manufactured products. The prize was established by Design Forum Finland and it is funded by the Finnish Fair Foundation. The recipient is selected by the prize jury. The Kaj Franck Design Prize includes an exhibition, which will now be held for the fourth time at Design Museum.

## **Exhibitions at Design Museum's other venues in 2017**

### **Design Museum Arabia**

Classics of Arabia and Iittala design are on show at Design Museum Arabia. As part of the new Iittala & Arabia Design Centre, the museum features Arabia and Iittala products from 1873 to the present day. Compiled from the collections of Design Museum, the exhibition gives the leading role to the history of ceramic and glass design in Finland.

### **Design Museum Iittala**

The Iittala Glass Museum displays the leading works of Finnish glass art from the 1880s to the present day. The permanent exhibition focuses on the skilled designers of world-famous Finnish glass, such as Tapio Wirkkala and Timo Sarpaneva, and their oeuvre.

### **Design Museum Nuutajärvi**

Nuutajärvi, Finland's oldest glassworks, was established in 1793 in the present municipality of Urjala in the province of Häme. International glassmakers introduced skills in this area, including the filigree technique. Post-war Finnish designers at Nuutajärvi, including Kaj Franck and Oiva Toikka, made the factory widely known. The Nuutajärvi Glass Museum presents, among other topics, the history of glassmaking,

which now continues at Nuutajärvi in the studios of both young and experienced glass artists and designers.

## Design Museum's touring exhibitions in 2017

The **Eero Aarnio** exhibition, which was held at Design Museum in 2016, will be on display at Nationalmuseum Design at Kulturhuset Stadsteatern in *Stockholm* from 8 February to 24 April 2017.

The **Marimekko** exhibition of materials from Design Museum's collections will open in *Tokyo, Japan* in the middle of December 2016. Produced in association with the Asahi Shimbun newspaper in Japan, the exhibition will go on tour from Tokyo to three other cities during 2017.

The **Finnish Design** Exhibition, based on the collections of Design Museum and curated by Curators Inc of Japan in association with Design Museum will also tour *Japan* in the coming year. Presenting the history of Finnish design, the exhibition consists 172 objects from the beginning of the 20th century to the 2000s. It features the work of designers Louis Sparre, Alfred William Finch, Kaj Franck, Maija Isola, Vuokko Nurmesniemi, Timo Sarpaneva, Tapio Wirkkala, Ilmari Tapiovaara and Oiva Toikka, among others. The exhibition venues will be the Fukuoka City Museum the Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, the Fukui City Museum, the Fuchu Art Museum and the Miyagi Museum of Art.

In 2017, Helsinki Art Museum HAM celebrates the 100th anniversary of Finnish independence by widely and evocatively showcasing Finnish modernism in an international context. Opening in March 2017, the exhibition **Modern life!** (3 March – 30 July 2017) will boldly take over the arched halls of Tennispalatsi. HAM is producing the exhibition in cooperation with the Alvar Aalto Foundation, the Museum of Finnish Architecture, the Design Museum and the Finnish Museum of Photography.

*Design Museum's cooperation partners in 2017 are A-lehdet, Iittala and Bond Creative Agency Oy.*

*Design Museum is a national specialist museum in the field of Finnish design. The museum researches, collects, acquires and documents design, and displays it in Finland and in international touring exhibitions.*

**Street address:**

Korkeavuorenkatu 23, 00130 Helsinki  
[www.designmuseum.fi](http://www.designmuseum.fi)

**Opening hours:**

Winter season, 1 September–31 May  
Tuesdays 11 a.m.–8 p.m.  
Wed.–Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m.  
Mondays closed.

**Entrance:**

Adults €10, pensioners €8, students €5, visitors under 16 years of age free of charge.  
Free entrance with the Museum Card (initial cost €59)  
Joint ticket to the Museum of Finnish Architecture and Design Museum €12.

***For more information, please contact:***

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