

DRAIFLESSEN COLLECTION

2024

ANNUAL  
PROGRAM

Dear visitors,

The guiding principle of our upcoming exhibitions is the interdisciplinary annual motto for 2024, "Creating a Future Vision," intended to give you new impulses—impulses that may seem unusual or even odd. It is an invitation to think about how we'd like to live in the future and to what extent we can shape our future ourselves. Among other things, the 2024 exhibitions were developed while keeping in mind the ways we affect our direct environment, the concrete space around us, and how we communicate either with or against each other. At the same time, we're also looking back at history and reflecting on our experiences and stories.

For the first time, we are presenting to you our annual program for 2024 in its new form. The illustration shows a work from the series *Objects of Significance* by the Düsseldorf artist Markus Vater (b. 1970). His works and the subjects he chooses are subtly inspiring reflection about existential questions. His thoughts regarding the future are a perfect example of this. Vater lives and works in Düsseldorf and London. Our heartfelt thanks go to the artist and to Rupert Pfab, who owns the gallery representing him, for promptly agreeing to support our new project.

We are looking forward to the year ahead and to many encounters with you!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Corinna Otto". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Corinna Otto

# THREADS

MATERIAL - MYTHS - SYMBOLS

Who does not know it, the thread of life, the common thread? Who is not interwoven with others? We encounter threads in myths, in the use of language, and also in art, where they are often used as metaphor, model, or medium. This exhibition is dedicated to the symbolic meanings of thread for human beings and human life. To this end, it combines works by contemporary women artists with the historical tools of spinning and weaving, as well as classical representations of selected Greco-Roman myths.

MAIN SPACE | UNTIL FEBRUARY 25, 2024

# STORYTELLING

## THE NARRATIVE POWER OF PRINTMAKING

This showcase exhibition delves into the fascinating world of printmaking, which kicked off a groundbreaking transformation in the fifteenth century with its novel way of disseminating images. Before this time, works of art such as altarpieces and paintings were usually only accessible to a privileged audience. With the advent of the new media of woodcut and copperplate engraving, images could suddenly be produced and distributed quickly, cheaply, and in large editions.

The exhibition impressively shows how printmaking, with its unique narrative form, helped to make images and the stories they contain accessible to a broad public for the first time.

STUDY ROOM | UNTIL APRIL 28, 2024

# ARIADNE'S NAAIKUSSEN

HISTORICAL NEEDLEWORK AND SEWING UTENSILS

Since 2018, the Draiflessen Collection has been home to the “Stichting (Collection) Ariadne’s Naaikussen (Sewing Cushions).” This exceptional collection includes about 2,000 historical needlework and sewing utensils, a collection of textile samples, and a specialized library. The precious treasures mostly date from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and are artistically crafted from valuable materials. Among them are not only widely used needlework utensils such as needles, scissors, thimbles, and elaborate sewing boxes, but also less common items such as yarn balls, sewing clamps, and shuttles for frivolity work.

This presentation allows us to discover anew the practical significance and aesthetic beauty of these rare and fascinating objects.

**DAS Forum | until April 28, 2024**



# SPACES EMBODIED

We live in spaces that we shape according to our own ideas. In the process, our day-to-day life leaves traces that tell of our habits. Spaces promise to protect and localize us but may also cause us to feel confined. We become part of spaces—and they, in turn, become an expression of our personality. Conversely, spaces, depending on their design and location, shape our existence.

SPACES EMBODIED brings together artistic positions that look at the spheres of humankind and space not as independent entities, but rather as part of complex processes of interdependence: as bodily experience, emotional dependency, or instinctual need for protection.

**MAIN SPACE | April 28 – August 4, 2024**

# TRUE TO SCALE

THE HISTORY OF C&A STORES IN MODEL AND IMAGE

The Draiflessen Collection includes roughly 100 architectural models of C&A department stores. For the most part, these models come from the Nattler architecture company in Essen, formerly E. A. Gärtner / R. Stiens. Since the 1950s, in the course of decades of collaboration between C&A and the company's Essen office, over 170 department stores were designed and built; to date, these stores have been renovated several times and already repurposed or demolished in some instances.

The architectural models are fascinating—miniature worlds with a distinctive character of their own. The exhibition shows that the architectural model is far more than a mere working tool—it is both a design for the future and an artifact of times gone by.

**DAS Forum | May 15 – October 20, 2024**



# MO(NU)MENTS

ON THE SHORT LIFE SPAN OF CEREMONIAL ARCHITECTURE

In early modern European culture, celebrations were opulent, performed as a matter of course. At the same time, every epoch developed its own unique type of public celebration, be it sacred or profane, courtly or urban. An essential part of the lavishly staged coronations, anniversaries, victory celebrations, or state visits, of weddings or birthdays, were the ephemeral, that is to say, short-lived, ceremonial structures.

Yet the architecture, often created by well-known artists, was only of short duration—exactly like the moment of celebration. That is why since the fifteenth century descriptions of festivals, which record these fleeting moments in words and pictures, have been an integral component of public celebrations. At the same time, these usually abundantly illustrated documentations, in book form, are as varied as the events themselves.

Thanks to these festival books, the showcase exhibition brings the former monuments back to life.

**STUDY HALL | May 15 – October 20, 2024**



# LANGUAGE/TEXT/ IMAGE

Language, text, and image rank among the foremost human means of expression used to create meaning. They are thus not neutral, but related to specific values, norms, and cultural techniques, and are integrated into social systems. Inevitably they also serve to draw boundaries that include but also exclude people. Where are these boundaries of what can be said or what is seen? Or, to rephrase the question, who or what decides whether something can be expressed or become visible? And how do those who are excluded—the groups and individuals who have apparently been deprived of their voice and visibility—react to mechanisms of such a demonstration of power?

The exhibition explores these questions based on select artworks from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries that are primarily focused on the relationship between language, text, and image, but which do not use them exclusively as visual design elements.

**MAIN SPACE | October 20, 2024 - February 16, 2025**

# IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD

ON THE POWER OF COMMUNICATION

Two well-known Bible stories attest to how important it is to be able to understand each other, or ideally to speak a common language, and how disastrous it is if people do not (or no longer) understand each other at all. Thus, the Old Testament account of the Tower of Babel tells of the confusion of tongues that God imposed on mankind, which led to insurmountable communication problems, while the New Testament story of the miracle of the Pentecost speaks of an all-encompassing understanding among the apostles.

However, this immense power of language is not only described in isolated biblical texts. The very fact that the Bible was translated into the vernacular languages set free unimagined forces which still have an impact today. With the aid of exemplary objects, the showcase exhibition traces the interplay of speech and speechlessness, of communication and misunderstanding.

**STUDY ROOM | November 6, 2024 - April 2025**

# CUNDA, KNÖS, AND KNASPELHUTSCHE

IN SEARCH OF COMPANY VOCABULARY

When people “speak the same language,” this means far more than merely being able to communicate with each other. In societies, clubs, and peer groups, a common “jargon” often develops. Those who speak it belong. Such a jargon also exists in a company context. In the seventeenth century, the *tüötten*, traveling pedlars from Westphalia, a group to which the ancestors of the Brenninkmeijer family also belonged, even used a secret language of their own: the Humpisch or Bargunsch. At C&A as well, there evolved in-house language conventions which became characteristic for the company.

In search of company vocabulary, the exhibition in the DAS Forum sets out to uncover the functions of special languages, and not only in the case of C&A. Such languages create an identity, conceal meaning, and serve a practical purpose.

DAS Forum | November 6, 2024 – April 2025

## CONCERT SERIES

meet  
MUSIC

By now, the concert series meetMUSIC by Draiflessen has developed quite a reputation. Stirring and soulful music is presented in the special ambience of Draiflessen, in spaces with great acoustics and a lovely park. We create a connection between the musicians and our guests, and at our outdoor events we promote emerging talent in particular.

meetMUSIC hosts exceptional artists who have often embraced specific musical genres: bridges of sound are created between classical music and jazz, new worlds of sound are discovered, and musical journeys through centuries put listeners under their spell.

### **February 15, 2024 | Draiflessen | Johanna Summer**

Resonances: Undiscovered Worlds between Classical Music and Jazz

### **April 1, 2024 | Easter Monday Concert in the Parish Church of St. Agatha, Mettingen | The Twiolins**

Eight Seasons - Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" combined with tangos by Astor Piazzolla

### **June 6, 2024 | Parish Church of St. Agatha, Mettingen | Christoph Spering**

Glorious Bach cantatas with choir and orchestra

### **June 14, 2024 | Draiflessen | Florian Künstler**

Hot pop songs with strong lyrics and deep emotions

### **August 16-18, 2024 | Draiflessen | meetMUSIC Open Air**

Festival in the park with outstanding emerging talent

Information and tickets at: [www.meetmusic.online](http://www.meetmusic.online)

# DRAIFLESEN COLLECTION

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## OPENING HOURS

Wednesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Every first Thursday of the month,  
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

More details on our events program: [www.draiflessen.com](http://www.draiflessen.com)

## IMPRINT

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## PHOTO CREDITS

Draiflessen's saw-toothed roof, © Draiflessen Collection, photo: HGEsch, 2023