

Information for the press

# **MODERNIST CRAFTS: BAUHAUS CERAMICS AND TEXTILES IN THURINGIA**

The Bauhaus workshops were at the heart of the school's teaching. In Erfurt and Dornburg, near the old pottery town of Bürgel, the influence of the Bauhaus craft workshops is still clearly apparent. There, you can see how the Bauhaus students and masters skilfully combined crafting traditions with artistic innovation to create new dimensions in ceramic and textile design.

## Experimental ceramics in Dornburg

The Bauhaus artists and designers experimented not only with new materials but also with time-honoured crafts such as ceramics. One of the first Bauhaus workshops was its pottery, which produced its wares under the leadership of Max Krehan. In 1920 it was relocated to Krehan's own pottery in Dornburg near Bürgel, a town with a rich history in ceramics. Artists such as Gerhard Marcks, Theodor Bogler and Otto Lindig had a strong impact on the workshop, paving the way for new ceramic forming techniques and production methods that moved away from the potter's wheel to serial production using casting techniques. Bogler's 'Mocha Machine' is a famous example of a cast ceramic. Other typical pieces include Bogler's 'Combination Teapot' produced from completely interchangeable modules, and Lindig's 'Sculptural Vessels' which are now regarded as design icons.

After its move to Dessau in 1925, the Bauhaus didn't open any new ceramic workshops, but its spirit lived on at the Thuringian pottery in Dornburg. The school's brief spell in Dornburg had a profound impact on the development of modern ceramics. Many of Germany's most influential ceramicists of the 20th century learnt their trade here, including Marguerite Friedlaender, Werner Burri, Theodor Bogler and Franz Rudolf Wildenhain. Otto Lindig continued running the ceramic workshop until it was later taken on by the Körting family, whose son still runs a pottery at the same site today. To celebrate the 2019 Bauhaus centenary in Dornburg, special events will be held at the renovated Bauhaus workshops and outbuildings. Visitors will have the chance to see not only lesser-known pieces by Krehan and Bogler, but also Lindig's 'Vase "Grand Prix"', so called because it was awarded the Grand Prix at the 1937 World Exposition in Paris. Original fixtures and fittings will bring the workshop atmosphere to life and give a sense of the experimental Bauhaus spirit.

## Futuristic textiles in Erfurt

The most innovative, successful and productive of all the Bauhaus workshops in Weimar was the weaving workshop. In the 1920s, the Bauhaus school held proprietary rights for around 900 textile designs. Known as the Bauhaus fabrics, these decorative textiles for wall coverings and upholstery were inspired by the colour and form studies of Johannes Itten, Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky. These woven goods with their structural designs represented an absolute first in textile production. All these

### At a glance:

The Bauhaus pottery was established in 1920 in Dornburg near Weimar. Many of the pieces crafted there went on to become design icons. The Bauhaus workshops there have been newly renovated and will open to the public as a new exhibition space in 2019 coinciding with the Bauhaus centenary.

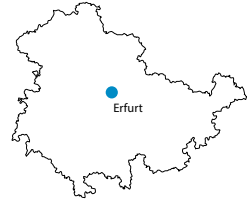


### At a glance:

The weaving workshop was one of Weimar's most successful Bauhaus studios. This Bauhaus craft still lives on today at the Margaretha Reichardt Haus in Erfurt.

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innovations came from the textile classes taught at the Bauhaus school. Margaretha Reichardt Haus in Erfurt captures the Bauhaus spirit of textile design and gives visitors a chance to see hand-operated looms in action. From 1939, this house was the home and workshop of Margaretha Reichardt, a textile designer and weaver who trained at the Bauhaus in Dessau under Gunta Stölzl. Reichardt is particularly remembered for the vital part she played in the development of so-called 'iron yarn', a fabric covering that Marcel Breuer used on his tubular steel furniture. From 1933 onwards, she ran a handloom weaving workshop in Erfurt and trained weavers in the Bauhaus approach. In a career that spanned more than 50 years, she produced an exceptional body of work, primarily textile patterns and tapestries. One of her students, Christine Leister, now produces fabrics using historical templates and gives loom demonstrations at Margaretha Reichardt Haus in Erfurt.



[bauhaus.visit-thuringia.com](http://bauhaus.visit-thuringia.com)

#### ▲ Contact

Thüringer Tourismus GmbH  
Kerstin Neumann  
Press and Public Relations  
+49 (0)361 374 22 18  
[k.neumann@thueringen-entdecken.de](mailto:k.neumann@thueringen-entdecken.de)

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