

Information for the press

BAUHAUS WEIMAR AS ▲ CENTRE OF ▲ VANT-GARDE ▲ ART ▲ AND DESIGN

Many of the names that appeared alongside Walter Gropius at the Bauhaus academy in Weimar – as Bauhaus masters or among its 150 to 200 students – went on to become internationally acclaimed artists and architects. The following ten renowned representatives of the Bauhaus movement and their most important pieces of work serve as examples of the Weimar period.

● Marianne Brandt (1893–1983)

Designer, photographer, painter, sculptor

Bauhaus master László Moholy-Nagy recognised Brandt's talent early on and encouraged her to join the metal workshop. Using the basic geometric shapes that form the essence of Bauhaus aesthetics (square, circle, triangle), she designed everyday objects that are now regarded as iconic, such as her coffee and tea set from 1924 – one of the most valuable works ever produced in the Bauhaus metal workshop.

Bauhaus years: 1924–1928 student, 1928–1929 as deputy head of the metal workshop in Dessau

Tip for visitors:

From 2019, the new bauhaus museum weimar will exhibit pieces such as Marianne Brandt's 'Tea Infuser'.

● Marcel Breuer (1902–1981)

Designer, architect

In the carpentry workshop, Marcel Breuer designed a number of wooden furniture pieces, including the 'African Chair' (together with Gunta Stölzl) in 1921 and the 'Slatted Chair' T11a in 1922, which was made from identical individual pieces – a design concept that he also applied later in the making of his 'Wassily Chair'. In 1923, he designed the furniture for the living room and dressing room of the concept house 'Haus Am Horn' in Weimar, including pieces such as the Lady's Dressing Table.

Bauhaus years: 1920–1924 as a student, 1925–1928 as a junior master in Dessau

Tip for visitors:

Breuer's early furniture designs will also be exhibited at the new bauhaus museum weimar from 2019.

● Lyonel Feininger (1871–1956)

Painter, illustrator

He was the first master at the Weimar academy and created the famous woodcut 'Cathedral' in 1919 for the front page of the Bauhaus Manifesto. It was an allegory for the unity of arts and crafts that the Bauhaus movement was striving for. Until 1925, he was the head of the printing workshop, where key publications such as the 'Bauhaus-Mappen' (Bauhaus portfolios) were produced. His paintings of the village churches, a series of nearly 150 works, became particularly famous.

Bauhaus years: 1919–1932 as a master

Tip for visitors:

The Feininger cycle path links places, such as the Gelmeroda village church, that inspired many pictures of the world-famous painter.

● Johannes Itten (1888–1967)

Painter, art lecturer and art writer

Itten influenced nearly all the workshops and the preliminary course, which he established as an obligatory semester of study. His highly sophisticated, nuanced curriculum included studies of nature and materials, but also classes such as gymnastics. Itten encouraged students to explore their own perceptions and pursue creative design approaches. He also promoted the religious and esoteric Mazdaznan teachings at the Bauhaus. Based on his theories he created works such as the Colour Sphere (1921).

Bauhaus years: 1919–1923 as a master and vice director

Tip for visitors:

In Weimar's Ilm Park, visitors walk in the footsteps of Johannes Itten. The Bauhaus master had his studio in the House of the Templars, which was also the scene of fancy parties.

● Wassily Kandinsky (1866–1944)

Painter, art theorist

Kandinsky was one of the most influential Bauhaus masters and head of the mural painting workshop from 1922 to 1925. He also held lessons on the theory of forms in the preliminary course, including an extensive module on colour theory. The allocation of the primary colours red, yellow and blue to the basic geometric shapes (square, triangle and circle) was based on a survey conducted by Kandinsky at the Bauhaus and inspired works such as the 'Cradle' by Peter Keler in 1922.

Bauhaus years: 1922–1933 as a master, 1923–1933 as deputy director

Tip for visitors:

A tour of Weimar should include a stop at Wilhelm-Külz-Strasse, where the founding father of abstract painting once lived on the second floor of house number 3.

● Paul Klee (1879–1940)

Painter, graphic designer, art theorist

His theory of colours and forms influenced the majority of Bauhaus artists and designers. From 1921, he taught students in the preliminary course the necessary skills to embark on their own, personal journey into art and design work. His famous mantra 'Art does not reproduce the visible, it makes visible' was the guiding principle of his teaching work. In the role of master of forms, Klee first became head of the bookbinding workshop in Weimar in 1921, then head of the metal workshop and from 1922/23 until 1925 head of the glass painting workshop.

Bauhaus years: 1920–1931 as a master

Tip for visitors:

The restaurant Ilmschlösschen often hosted Paul Klee and other academy members for meals during the Bauhaus period and it still serves traditional regional Thuringian specialties.

● Gerhard Marcks (1889–1981)

Painter, sculptor, potter/ceramist

During his time as artistic director, experimental ceramic vessels were produced at the pottery in Dornburg/Saale. When the ceramics workshop switched from using pottery wheels to casting ceramics in 1923, he oversaw the production of prototypes. In addition to his famous ceramic works, he also created a series of woodcuts called 'Song of Wieland' (Wielandslied) in 1923–1924 and designed a coffee maker called 'Sintrax', which was later enhanced by Wilhelm Wagenfeld.

Bauhaus years: 1919–1924 as a master

Tip for visitors:

If you make a trip to the ceramics workshop in Dornburg/Saale from 2019 onwards, you will be able to see how the Bauhaus ceramic artists revolutionised pottery.

● László Moholy-Nagy (1895–1946)

Painter, designer, photographer

László Moholy-Nagy, a hugely talented designer working with a wide range of materials, became head of the metal workshop in 1923. He had a profound influence on the development of modern products, photography, typography and stage work. As part of the preliminary course, he introduced new students to a systematic analysis of different materials and let them carry out studies on space and balance.

Bauhaus years: 1923–1928 as a master

Tip for visitors:

László Moholy-Nagy's former residence can be found at number 1, Leibnizallee in Weimar, where visitors can view the building from the outside.

● Oskar Schlemmer (1888–1943)

Painter, sculptor, stage designer

Oskar Schlemmer, who had previously come to some acclaim in Stuttgart with his experimental Triadic Ballet, went on to become the artistic director of the mural painting workshop, the wood and stone sculpture workshop and, temporarily, the metal workshop. From 1923, he was head of the legendary stage workshop, where he and his students explored the relationship of the human being to space. He was the initiator of many inventive Bauhaus costume parties, and also designed the official Bauhaus logo in 1922 as well as the murals for the workshop building in Weimar in 1923.

Bauhaus years: 1921–1929 as a master

Tip for visitors:

The stairway of the Bauhaus University in Weimar features a replica of Schlemmer's murals for visitors to admire.



● Wilhelm Wagenfeld (1900–1990)

Silversmith, designer

As an apprentice in the metal workshop, Wilhelm Wagenfeld created the prototypes for his famous table lamps in 1923/1924. Under László Moholy-Nagy as the workshop director, he collaborated with fellow Bauhaus designer Gyula Pap to develop the first draft version in glass. Wagenfeld then created an improved metal version, which is still being produced in large numbers to the present day.

Bauhaus years: 1923–1925 as a master

Detailed biographies of these and other

Bauhaus artists can be found at www.bauhaus100.de/en

bauhaus.visit-thuringia.com

Tip for visitors:

Wagenfeld's prototypes of a modern lamp can be examined up close at the new Bauhaus Museum Weimar as of 2019.

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