

Bauhaus Dessau

Press release

The Bauhaus
Museum Dessau
opens its doors

The Open Stage on the
ground floor forms a new
cultural Bauhaus venue

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The ground floor of Bauhaus Museums Dessau forms a new cultural Bauhaus venue in the centre of Dessau. Designed as an Open Stage, the space is used as an arena. The Open Stage as a new experimental platform for performative and discursive formats will supplement and expand the programme on the Bauhaus Stage in the historical Bauhaus Building.

The programme consists of interactive installations, lectures, film screenings and discussions, dance, theatre and performance projects. The goal: to convey to visitors to the Museum and local inhabitants how to this day the Bauhaus (construed here as a stance promoting inquisitive, open learning and experimentation) in a plethora of ways stimulates and encourages art and design – and not just for the experts. Moreover, the *Open Stage* is a local platform for everyone in both Dessau-Roßlau and the region, be they clubs, institutions, groups and individuals who seek to realize creative projects, initiate active encounters or work in art.

Arena by Rita McBride

The *Arena* by Rita McBride forms the eye-catching heart of the *Open Stage*. As a sculptural adaptation of a semi-circular gallery for an audience, it provides space for artistic programmes and spontaneous encounters. The *Arena* was first produced in 1997 for the Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art in Rotterdam. Since then it has been used in many museums and theatres. However, the *Arena* never functioned as simple seats. With her work, Rita McBride explores the way sculpture can be activated at different sites and how in the process the exhibition space and general public communicate and interact with each other.

Lichtspielhaus by Lucy Raven

Opposite the *Arena* stands Lucy Raven's *Lichtspielhaus*. With her dynamic installation consisting of floor-to-ceiling glass panels in different colours, the New York-based artist won the "Kunst am Bau" competition for Bauhaus Museum Dessau. The panels slide along rails across a distance of 15 meters parallel to the museum's glass facade. The resulting overlaps give rise each time to new compositions of colour and light that create a huge variety of atmospheric situations both inside and outside the building. In her piece, Lucy Raven references the work Anni and Joseph Albers did on colour and perception, but at the same time doffs her cap to Moholy-Nagy and his approach to using light as a design element – as in the exhibition in the *Versuchsstätte Bauhaus* on the first floor, where his Light-space-modulator and photograms are showcased.