

**Competition Categories**

Product Design

Photography

Experimental Design

**Submission Period**

1 October 2015 – 31 May 2016

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The Poetry of the  
Functional

6th International  
Marianne Brandt Contest

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Call for Submissions  
6th International Marianne Brandt Contest 2016  
2016 Theme: Material Effects

With its focus on *Material Effects*, the 6th International Marianne Brandt Contest continues the search it began in 2000 for *The Poetry of the Functional* within the polarities of art and design. It thereby links up with and develops the theme of *cradle to cradle* and its awareness of material, mankind and the environment – the special category of the contest 2013.

Young designers, artists and photographers, also scientists and creatives from other disciplines are invited to work on interesting answers or further questions on this topic. The contest is interested in material-sensitive products and imagery, likewise projects and experimental designs dealing with the derivation, history and characteristics of materials; these might be concepts that perhaps question in a social and aesthetic context the sustainability of a design oriented on products and things and thus support the planning of new perspectives of behaviour and action. Competitive entries are expected to address issues about the contemporary use of material in a visibly and contextually clear way, with an artistic, scientific and creative treatment of the topic that considers ecological, social, economic and cultural effects.

Accordingly, prizes will be awarded in the three categories Product Design, Photography and Experimental Designs.

**Call for Submissions**  
**6th International Marianne Brandt Contest 2016**  
**2016 Theme: Material Effects**

### **The competition's namesake: Product designer and artist Marianne Brandt**

The key question for Bauhaus in the 1920s was the question of how materials – in selection, conversion or combination – could shape design and artistic processes; this was a central object of the preliminary course taught by Laszlo Moholy-Nagy and Josef Albers. Marianne Brandt attended this class in 1924, in which various materials such as metal, wood, plastic and paper were studied using simple tools. She first playfully explored how spatial structures could be developed based on the specific qualities of the materials and using appropriate processes. Marianne Brandt applied this basic knowledge of materials into her designs for the metal workshop in Dessau, first teaching the technical aspects, then, from 1928 on, the artistic aspects as well.

Marianne Brandt's lamps for the Bauhaus building and her table objects – from tea extract pots to ashtrays – have become icons of modern design with their sensitive, geometric and logical, functional material composition. Parallel to her practical, functionally-oriented work in the metal shop, Marianne Brandt also expressed her free artistic talents in retaining a poetic space and playground to carry out her sensory experiments working with material effects that flowed indirectly into her application-oriented designs. The camera was a special instrument for Marianne Brandt's artistic work; she had already completed studies in painting prior to her Bauhaus years, but it was finally the camera and the exploration of the medium of photography which culminated in about fifty photo collages consisting of her own photographs and collected press photos.

## Categories

### Product Design

The competition will be seeking products that are developed in a manner sensitive to materials and aware of resources in relation to manufacturing processes and options for use. Submissions are expected that explore designs using advanced technologies and innovative material concepts, also product ideas whose functionality can be experienced in a special and intensive way through the senses.

### Photography

Important in the photography category are images that motivate a change in the perspicacious and sensory perspectives of material and materiality, and works that explicitly draw their character from material observation and the study of materials.

### Special competition category

#### Experimental Design

The key focus of this category is directed on processes and designs for experimental and unconventional exploration and testing of materials in design processes. Experimental designs, studies and models are requested, but also enacted representations, which literally "put material to the test". Thus the subject of this category can be resource-aware processing, and also the equally important emotional impact of a material.

### Further information

[www.marianne-brandt-wettbewerb.de](http://www.marianne-brandt-wettbewerb.de)

## Submission procedure

The submission period begins on 1 October 2015 and ends on 31 May 2016. Information on the contest, submission procedures and preparation status is published on the contest's website: [marianne-brandt-wettbewerb.de](http://marianne-brandt-wettbewerb.de).

Candidates include young creatives who have not yet reached the age of 40 before the final submission date.

The Entry fee is € 30. It is to be paid with the application (as of October 2015). Candidates can register online starting from 1 October 2015 at: [www.contest.marianne-brandt-wettbewerb.de](http://www.contest.marianne-brandt-wettbewerb.de). A registration is considered processed after the payment of the Entry fee is received by the competition organisers. Upon registration, the participants can upload a digital version of the exhibit in form of a .pdf file (maximum file size: 5MB).

From the submitted entries the jury will nominate sixty works by 30 June 2016. The nominees will be asked to send their contributions to the Industriemuseum Chemnitz by latest 7 September 2016. The costs incurred in the shipping and return of items submitted are to be borne by the participant. All participants will receive a free copy of the publication *Material Effects*.

### Awards

The award is endowed with a prize of € 15,000 which will be presented in three categories. In addition, three honourable mentions will be announced in each category. Special prizes will be awarded by well-known companies: vitra GmbH Weil am Rhein, smow GmbH Leipzig, Neue Schule für Fotografie Berlin, among others. Further special award donors will be published on the website.

### Jury

Prof. Ahn Sang-soo, KR  
*Typographer*  
Prof. Barbara Schmidt, DE  
*Product Designer*  
Prof. Dr. Harald Welzer, DE  
*Sociologist & Social Psychologist*  
Zeitguised, DE / US  
*Digital Artists*

### Host & Initiator

Kunstverein VILLA ARTE e.V.,  
Augustusbürger Str. 102, 09126 Chemnitz,  
Germany

### Sponsors

Kulturstiftung des Freistaates Sachsen  
(Free State of Saxony Cultural Institute),  
City of Chemnitz

### Patrons

The 6th International Marianne Brandt Contest is supported by Ms. Barbara Ludwig,  
Lord Mayor of Chemnitz.

### Partners

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Leipzig, PaTI Typography Institute Seoul,  
Anni and Josef Albers Institute Connecticut,  
Paul Klee Society Japan, Kuwasawa Design  
Institute Tokyo, Design Museum Bratislava,  
Recycling Design Prize Herford, Schusev State  
Architecture Museum, Moscow