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Connectedness
— Experiments on a new
relationship with nature

Call for Submissions
8th International Marianne Brandt
Award 2022

Connectedness

— Experiments on a new
relationship with nature

The 8th International Marianne Brandt Award 2022 asks artists and designers how that which connects us with other living beings and habitats can be newly discovered and designed. We are looking for projects, images, and texts on cooperative, aesthetic, metaphorical, and poetic exchanging relationships with other organisms and natural existences.

Could a perspective in which humans see themselves less as a counterpart to other living beings and habitats, but rather pay attention to similarities, familiarities, and mutual dependencies help establish new cooperative natural relations? How could we conceive and design connecting processes, objects, and atmospheres in this sense? How can we talk, write and tell about our existential connections in poetic and creative ways?

In the 1920s the Chemnitz-born artist and Bauhaus designer Marianne Brandt had written poems, in which she discovered forms of nature that appear like poetic and constructive role models for her shiny and geometric metal designs of “tableware” and “lighting bodies”. The sea appeared as a “shimmering round” or the moon as a “sculptural sphere”. At the same time, she searched for analogies in natural phenomena for her sensations and moods. Brandt found resonance in “sheet lightning” or in “rippling waves”.

What are the approaches to nature that are relevant for artists and designers today? How can we foster, show or celebrate moments that connect us?

The works of the Bauhaus member, designer and artist Marianne Brandt can be found in leading museums and collections all over the world. But Brandt’s legacy is by no means just a piece of design history — in her hometown of Chemnitz, young, international designers and artists come together every three years to show their current work in the dynamic field of art and design. The International Marianne Brandt Award, founded in 2001 and since then hosted by Villa Arte e.V. Chemnitz, not only selects product designs, but also photographs and other artistic formats.

With the motto “The Poetry of the Functional”, the competition explores the question of where and how in Brandt’s former fields of activity projects that are both useful and inspiring are emerging today. An international jury will nominate 60 entries from all submissions received by the beginning of March 2022, which will be exhibited in Chemnitz from autumn 2022. As part of the opening of the one month lasting exhibition — which always opens on or around Brandt’s birthday on 1 October — the Marianne Brandt Award endowed with € 5,000 each, will be awarded in the categories of design, photography and text. In addition, special prizes donated by sponsors and supporters will be given. An extensive public program with lectures, talks and workshops, as well as a catalog will accompany the competition.

The International Marianne Brandt Award is funded by the Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony and the City of Chemnitz.

Registration and submission

1 November 2021
— 3 March 2022

contest.marianne-brandt-wettbewerb.de

Participation fee

€30

Nomination of 60 works
in the categories

Project
Photography
Text

Exhibition of the
60 nominated works

October 2022
in Chemnitz

Prizes per category

€ 5,000 each

Jury (among others)

formafantasma
Jitka Hanzlova
Matthew Stone