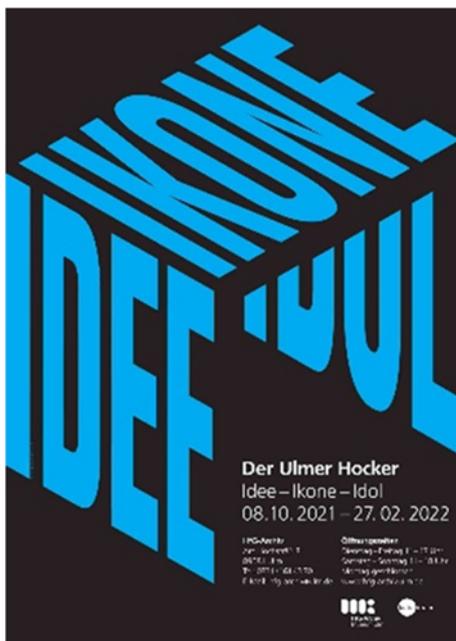


: Press Release

The Ulm Stool: Idea - Icon - Idol

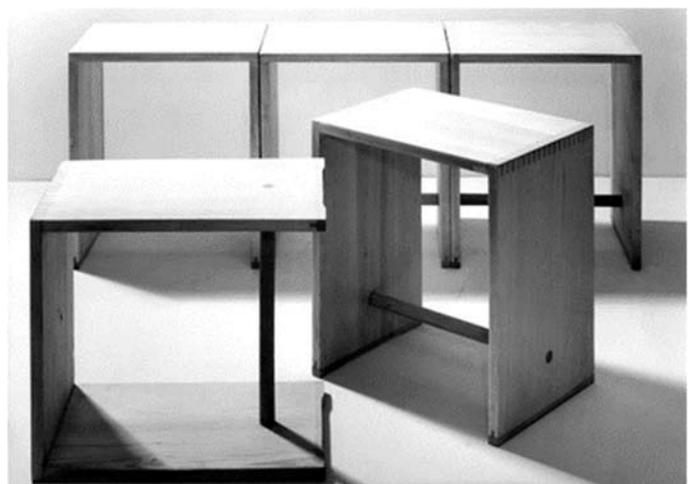
08. October 2021 until 27. February 2022
Opening | Thu | 07 October 2021 | 7 pm



With the exhibition "The Ulm Stool: Idea - Icon - Idol", the HfG-Archiv Ulm is for the first time placing one of the most famous designs created at the Ulm School of Design (HfG) at the centre of a detailed presentation.

From different perspectives, the path from simple utilitarian furniture at the HfG Ulm (1953-1968) to a design classic appreciated worldwide is traced. By means of a multifaceted view of the different conditions that made the "Ulmer Hocker" possible, it not only becomes understandable as a design classic, but is also presented as an original model of historiography.

Thus, the "Idea" shows the "Ulmer Hocker" in a broad field of tension of its creation and interprets it as a product of various factors: Max Bill, Hans Gugelot and Paul Hildinger are illuminated as the originators of the "Ulmer Hocker" created at the HfG Ulm in 1954, as well as innovative technologies used in the production of the "Ulmer Hocker" and the economic and political situation of the HfG Ulm. Influences from painting and design history, architecture and science are also the focus of attention.



As an "icon", the "Ulmer Hocker" is presented as a classic of design history and staged as part of its respective canon. The "Ulmer Hocker" continues to be an icon for many international designers, giving rise to their own interpretations to this day. It is imitated, modified and developed further - its dimensions are changed, its materials varied, its functions expanded. The stools on show are either contemporary variants, copies, variations, predecessors or successors of the "Ulmer Hocker", all of which refer more or less directly to it and raise the question of what actually constitutes the "Ulmer Hocker" at its core. Some of the models presented take up the form in order to improve it or adapt it to other uses. Other examples refine the stool or ironise it. Still others do other things differently, but try to remain true to the ideal concept of the "Ulmer Hocker": they are simple and cheap to produce, multifunctional and available to all.



Following the documentation of historical uses, an "open call" via the platform nextmuseum.io encouraged the public to share the "Ulmer Hocker" as an "idol" with its current use, both photographically and in contributions, and thus become part of the exhibition. Wherever you walk and stand, you come across the "Ulmer Hocker" not only in Ulm. It was used at the HfG Ulm wherever a seat or a pedestal, a bedside table or a substitute for a ladder was needed. The furniture is quickly at hand for a variety of uses, without much effort. Just as silently, it disappears from the stage again. The pictures and texts submitted show that the "Ulmer Hocker" is still indispensable today as a multifunctional piece of furniture.

The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive programme of events and an exhibition catalogue.

Curators: Viktoria Lea Heinrich M.A., Prof. Dr. Thomas Hensel, Dr. Martin Mäntele

Fig.: Exhibition poster Der Ulmer Hocker, HfG Archive Ulm, design by Jochen Speidel Max Bill - Hans Gugelot - Paul Hildinger, Ulmer Hocker, 1954, photo Ernst Hahn, © HfG Archive Ulm | Marcel Breuer, Kantinenhocker, 1926, Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, photo Esther Hoyer

Further information on the exhibition can be found at www.hfg-archiv.museumulm.de and www.museumulm.de. There you will also find text and image material to download in the press section.

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Opening Hours
Thu - Fri : 11am - 5 pm
Sat - Sun : 11am - 6 pm
www.hfg-archiv.museumulm.de