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PRESS RELEASE
Kulturforum, Kunstgewerbemuseum
Matthaikirchplatz, 10785 Berlin
Opening hours: Tue – Fri 10 am – 6 pm, Sat + Sun 11 am – 6 pm

Design Lab #13: Material Legacies
4 November 2022 – 26 February 2023
A special exhibition of the Kunstgewerbemuseum – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin in cooperation with the Cluster of Excellence “Matters of Activity. Image Space Material” of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Opening: Thursday, 3 November 2022, 6 pm

For its 13th and last part of its experimental *Design Lab* series, Berlins Kunstgewerbemuseum (Museum of Decorative Arts) has invited design researchers from the Cluster of Excellence "Matters of Activity. Image Space Material" of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin to explore contingencies and ruptures between traditional crafts and most recent developments at the crossroads of material research, design, engineering, and architecture.

The exhibition *Material Legacies* brings together artifacts from the Kunstgewerbemuseum’s collection with work-in-progress installations by designers and researchers from the Cluster of Excellence in order to initiate a dialogue about the historical, contemporary and future conditions under which materiality unfolds.

By engaging with a series of different materials and techniques, the exhibition encompasses both the problematization of unsustainable pasts and presents as well as the imagination of speculative material futures. We will explore shape-shifting surfaces and phase-shifting textiles, and take a fresh look at the processes of calcification, mineralization, and sedimentation. Each of the exhibits will investigate its sociocultural, economic and political context and address questions such as: How can we make better use of leftover material? What can we learn from transferring biological processes into material processing? What do materials and artefacts teach us about our relationship to the environment? As such *Material Legacies* will disentangle the multiple interrelations that arise from and with materials.

Researchers
Michaela Büsse, Mason Dean, Karola Dierichs, Michaela Eder, Lorenzo Guiducci, Johanna Hehemeyer-Cürten, Heidi Jalkh, Agata Kycia, Claudia Mareis, John A. Nyakatura, Felix Rasehorn, Iva Rešetar, Patricia Ribault, Christiane Sauer, Igor Sauer, Maxie Schneider, Robert Stock, Josephine Shone, Emile de Visscher, Charlett Wenig.

The Cluster of Excellence "Matters of Activity"
„Matters of Activity. Image Space Material“ is an interdisciplinary research group aimed at creating the basis for a new culture of materials. Located at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin it fosters research at the intersection of biology and technology, mind and material, nature and culture. “Matters of

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Activity. Image Space Material" is funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) under Germany's Excellence Strategy. For more information please visit: www.matters-of-activity.de

About *Design Lab*

Since 2019, the *Design Lab* exhibition series has invited selected design studios, students and researchers to present current projects and to engage a discourse with the collection of the Kunstgewerbemuseum. The *Design Lab* series is curated by Claudia Banz, curator for design at the Kunstgewerbemuseum.

Design Lab is supported by the Kuratorium Preußischer Kulturbesitz: www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de/kuratorium

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