

BUNDESKUNSTHALLE

Media Information

THE LAST OF THEIR KIND **CRAFTS AND PROFESSIONS IN TRANSITION** 3 December 2022 to 2 April 2023

In the course of history, countless professions have emerged and disappeared or had to adapt to social and technical change, particularly as a result of industrialization. This process has gained additional momentum through globalization and digitalization. Global changes first happen at the local level.

The exhibition takes a look at occupational change in North Rhine-Westphalia and focuses on five endangered professions. Using these examples, past, present and future expected effects of the transformation in work life can be made more generally clear. The five professions are the trades of baking and tailoring, which are threatened by industrialization and globalization, the end of coal mining in favour of ecological change, the service profession of cashiers, which is gradually disappearing as a result of digitalization, and the almost vanished trade of typesetting.

The exhibition shows that worldwide transformation processes are also reflected in the everyday working life of individuals. Aspects of social, economic and also ecological change become visible in individual professions and biographies, such as physical, psychological and social alienation as well as personal, family and regional loss of identity, or fear of the future. However, social change also holds opportunities for improving everyday professional life, especially in view of the current sustainability debate. Craft creativity and the transfer of knowledge of cultural techniques play an important role in the education and well-being of all of us. Some crafts should therefore be preserved as intangible cultural heritage.

The exhibition, accompanying book and programme of events are being produced in cooperation with the Institute of Economic and Social Research (WSI) of the Hans Böckler Foundation. The patron of the exhibition is Andrea Nahles, Chairwoman of the Federal Employment Agency.

For interviews and filming requests, please send an email to presse@bundeskunsthalle.de or contact Angelica Francke by telephone on +49 228 9171-289. Text and image material is available at www.bundeskunsthalle.de/en/press.

Sven Bergmann
Press Officer / Executive Officer to the Management
T +49 228 9171-205
bergmann@bundeskunsthalle.de

Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland GmbH
Helmut-Kohl-Allee 4
53113 Bonn
T +49 228 9171-0
F +49 228 234154
www.bundeskunsthalle.de

Geschäftsführung
Dr. Eva-Christina Kraus
Oliver Hölken

Vorsitzender des Kuratoriums
Ingo Mix

HRB Nr. 5096
Amtsgericht Bonn
Umsatzsteuer ID Nr. DE811386971
Leitweg-ID 992-80160-58

Konto 3 177 177 00
Deutsche Bank Bonn
BLZ 380 700 59
IBAN DE03 3807 0059 0317 7177 00
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