29 September 2023 – 28 January 2024

The year 1967 marked the beginning of our present: Modernism, which had presumed that everything could be sorted out through equal housing, furniture and rights for all, was abandoned, and a new, bizarre, eccentric world was born. Architects declared the amusement park the new ideal city; designers shook off the yoke of good taste, and the conflict between the two dominant political systems gave way to the struggle for self-realisation. New media synchronised the globe, images became the arena in which contests for style and recognition were waged.

Showcasing key examples of design, architecture, film, music, fashion, media, every day culture, philosophy, art and literature, the exhibition chronicles the dawn of the information society, the unleashing of the financial markets, the great age of subcultures, disco, punk and techno-pop, shoulder pads and Memphis furniture, and of the boom in the construction of museums, the new temples of art and culture, to which the exhibition owes its largest exhibit, the Bundeskunsthalle itself. When it opened in 1992, the Cold War was over, and Francis Fukuyama published his famous book, in which he proclaimed ‘the end of history’ as such.

Thirty years later, it is evident that history did not come to an end, and postmodernity is once again a matter of considerable debate. The exhibition holds up a mirror to the present in which all its conflicts – from right-wing populism to identity politics – can already been seen, and which allows us to ask, with the distance of a generation, what time we are actually living in. Is postmodernity over – or are we in the middle of it?

With works by (selection)

Please note the media conference on Thursday, 28 September 2023, 11 a.m. in the Forum of the Bundeskunsthalle. The exhibition opens at 10 a.m.
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.

The invitation will follow at the beginning of September 2023.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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Cultural partner

WDR³