

A Century of Chairs

Tour proposal



ANNA CASTELLI-FERRIERI, 4870 STACKING CHAIR, 1987-8

the
DESIGN
MUSEUM

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The Design Museum Touring Programme

The Design Museum Touring Exhibitions Programme was set up in 2002 with an aim to bring design exhibitions to audiences around the UK and internationally. Since then, the Museum has toured more than 120 exhibitions to 99 venues in 27 countries worldwide.

In May 2018, The Design Museum was awarded the title of European Museum of the Year and commended by the panel for its effort in developing ‘an important democratic and multi-layered intercultural dialogue, with a significant social impact in the community’.

The Design Museum touring exhibitions range in size from 150 to 1000 square metres and cover all areas of design – architecture, fashion, furniture, graphics, product, and more.



EXHIBITION VIEW. THE CIVIC IN BARNESLEY, LONDON

Exhibition overview

At a time when design is enjoying unprecedented popularity with the public, A Century of Chairs offers an engaging and informative opportunity to trace the history of modern design through the evolution of one object – the chair. The exhibition features a collection of seventy classic chairs from the Design Museum Collection – each of which illustrates a landmark in aesthetics, functionality, materials, production technology or sustainability.

No object tells the history of modern design more eloquently than the chair. From Michael Thonet's discovery of how to mass-manufacture bentwood chairs in the late 19th century and Marcel Breuer's pioneering use of tubular steel at the Bauhaus in the 1920s, to Charles and Ray Eames' plywood innovations in the 1940s, the pop-inspired plastic chairs of Verner Panton and Joe Colombo in the 1960s and recent advances by contemporary designers, such as Jasper Morrison and the Bouroullec brothers, the chair has long been a focus of experimentation for modern designers.

Featuring 70 classic chairs from the Design Museum Collection, A Century of Chairs assesses the design and development of the chair in terms of aesthetics, functionality, technology, ergonomics and sustainability. Some of the chairs in this exhibition are extraordinarily flamboyant, such as Charles and Ray Eames' spectacular La Chaise, first designed in 1948 but not produced until decades later, or the Crown Chair welded by Tom Dixon in his London workshop during the late 1980s. Other chairs are remarkable examples of technological innovation: notably Marcel Breuer's 1925-1927 Wassily, which was one of the first chairs to be made from tubular metal, and pioneering plastic chairs from Verner Panton's sensual 1960 Panton Chair to the equally innovative Air Chair developed by Jasper Morrison as recently as 1999.



GERRIT THOMAS RIETVELD, ZIG-ZAG CHAIR, 1932-
34. PHOTO BY LUKE HAYES



KONSTANTIN GRIC, CHAIR ONE, 2002
PHOTO BY LUKE HAYES

Exhibition details

Design Museum Curator:	Gemma Curtin
Venues (selected):	Design Museum, 2003 Design Centre, Barnsley, 2004 Cartwright Hall, Bradford, 2008 The Civic, Barnsley, 2010 Cheongju International Craft Biennale, 2011 Storey Gallery, Lancaster, 2012 Sewerby Hall, Yorkshire, 2015
Availability:	from spring 2019
Space:	200 – 400 sq m



EXHIBITION VIEW. THE CIVIC IN BARNSLEY, LONDON

Terms and conditions

Hire Fee, on request:

INCLUDED IN HIRE FEE

- Curation and concept by the Design Museum
- Administration and tour management by the Design Museum
- Exhibits
- Use of images with rights cleared
- DM exhibition text in digital format (English only included)
- Use of DM exhibition and graphic design concept
- Use of selected DM display kit to be confirmed.

COSTS PAYABLE BY THE VENUE

- Hire Fee, payable in instalments
- Fee to Exhibition Designer to adapt the exhibition for the venue's space
- Insurance
- Share of transport and crating
- Storage of empty crates
- Installation and de-installation costs including build, technicians, couriers and any other additional staff required on site
- Translation and production of exhibition graphics, fee to graphic designer
- Publicity costs, press or printed materials such as private view invitation, flyer, poster, advertising
- Any other costs relating to exhibition production.



ACHILLE CASTIGLIONI AND PIER GIACOMO
CASTIGLIONI, MEZZADRO, 1954-7



JOE COLOMBO, UNIVERSALE STACKING CHAIR,
1968

Contact

To find out more about this exhibition and tours available from 2017 when the Design Museum moves to its new home in Kensington, please contact:

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