

In Focus:

Bags – functional, decorative, fashionable

22 June 2018 until 3 February 2019

Opening: 21 June 2018, 7 pm

"In Focus" is a new presentation launched by the German Leather Museum (DLM) comprising series of studio exhibitions. Following a loose sequence, the shows will provide an insight into the wide-ranging items in the museum's extensive collection. This gives us the opportunity to exhibit over a temporary period – albeit in a concentrated way and grouped around specific questions – various outstanding objects, which, for the most part, languish in the storerooms.

With more than 30,000 objects spanning three main subject areas – applied art, ethnology and the German Shoe Museum – the German Leather Museum's collection houses an unimaginably diverse range of artefacts. The holdings comprise leather objects from all periods in history and from every continent, making the museum an important exponent internationally of the culture of leather. The sheer diversity and vast extent of these exquisite and exceptional specimens places the museum in a unique position nationally, if not indeed worldwide.

The first presentation in the series will focus on the general topic of bags. The German Leather Museum holds an extraordinary collection of bags, of mainly historical provenance, the vast majority of which are stored behind the scenes. The bag per se – deployed in pre-historic times and the Stone Age as a utility item, a "means of transportation" for raw materials and food, used in the Middle Age by men initially as a form of pouch or belt bag – has undergone a transformation over the centuries to become one of today's most highly differentiated and popular accessories. As a utility object, the bag is functional; as a luxury item and status symbol, it is both decorative and fashionable. Determined by a host of different needs and subject to the changing trends in fashion, bags have become established in innumerable forms and variations throughout history. During the course of a day, for both men and women, specific types and models are called upon for dedicated uses: as an office bag or briefcase, shopping bag, sports holdall and – at the end of the day, solely for ladies – the clutch bag.

The Studio exhibition **Bags – functional, decorative, fashionable** selectively traces how the bag has developed through history and casts light on the emergence of particular types that still shape fashion and daily use. **"In Focus"** is based on an idea by Dr Inez Florschütz, Director of the DLM, who has also curated the exhibition.

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Press preview: 21 June 2018, 1 pm

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DLM Deutsches Ledermuseum

Frankfurter Straße 86

63067 Offenbach am Main

Tel.: 069 829798-11

www.ledermuseum.de

Tuesday to Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm

The DLM is open until 8 pm on every second Thursday of the month.



From Frankfurt Hbf (main station):

S-Bahn S1, S2, S8, S9, alighting at "Ledermuseum" stop, exit Ludwigstr. (approx. 10-min. walk)

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