

GOLDSTEIN MUSEUM OF DESIGN

364 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55108
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Polarities: Black and White in Design

October 15, 2011- January 8, 2012

Reception: October 20, 6-8 PM

Polarities: Black and White in Design explores social interpretations of black, white, and black and white in objects from the Goldstein Museum of Design's (GMD) collections. In Western cultures, black and white are associated with death, wickedness, cleanliness, purity, and peace. The social meanings can be conflicting and varied. However, whether they are used for pragmatic issues of readability, stylistic effect, economy of means, or cultural standards, black and white in designed objects is a conscious choice and may have a powerful impact.

Black and white often evoke minimalism, as exemplified by the tenets forwarded by the Bauhaus in 1920's Germany. White, beige, and black were said to provide the purest design expressions, while the use of color was viewed as decorative and unrelated to function. However, prior to World War I, black and white were often used more ornamentally. For example, print work of Victoriana, toile fabric design, and garments with elaborate lace and beadwork frequently employed the use of black and/or white.

This exhibition will feature objects from GMD's four collecting areas to illustrate ways in which black and white in design can echo or diverge from preconceptions. For example, a filigree patterned Victorian tea cup will be compared to Eva Zeisel's 1940's white ceramic coffee cup, challenging viewers to assess which object has more design complexity. Objects such as a black dress with a minimal silhouette but highly articulated surface design will also be among the over 75 objects on display.

Curated by Goldstein Museum of Design Assistant Curator **Jean McElvain, PhD**, and **Caitlin Cohn**, Research Assistant.

COLLEGE OF DESIGN
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General Information

The Goldstein Museum of Design (GMD), part of the University of Minnesota's College of Design, supports teaching and research in design through exhibitions, publications, programs, and community partnerships. GMD celebrates diverse cultures through its collections and programs by promoting the appreciation and interpretation of design within social, cultural, aesthetic, and historic contexts.

Visitor Info

GMD Gallery is on the second floor of McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.

Gallery Hours

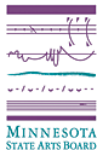
The GMD Gallery is open Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday 10 am–4 pm, Thursday 10 am–8 pm and weekends 1:30–4:30 pm. The Gallery is closed Mondays and all University holidays.

Admission and Parking

Gallery admission is free. Parking is in Gortner Ramp at 1395 Gortner Avenue. The ramp and McNeal Hall are both handicapped accessible.

Public Transit

Route 87 or Campus Connector. For bus information, call (612) 373-3333.



In addition to generous sponsorship for specific exhibitions, all GMD programming is supported in part by the Minnesota State Arts Board in cooperation with the Minnesota State Legislature, the Friends of the Goldstein, and the College of Design.