

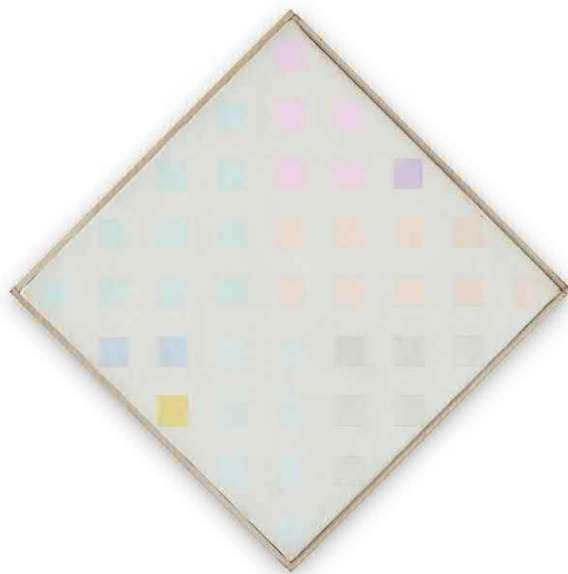
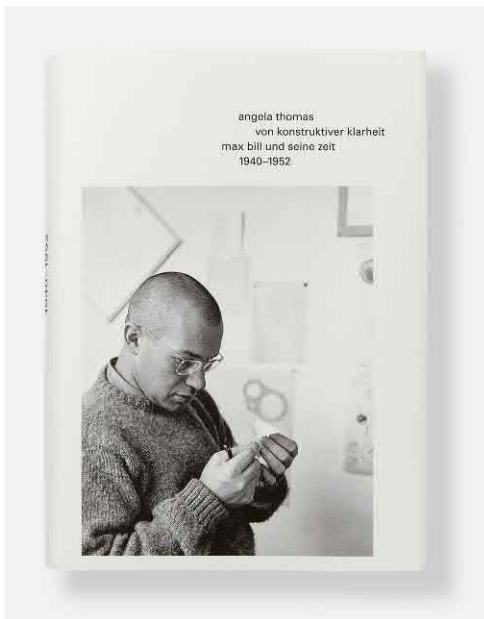


HAUSER & WIRTH PUBLISHERS

Press Release

New Release: „von konstruktiver klarheit. max bill und seine zeit 1940–1952“

The second volume of Angela Thomas's Max Bill series will be published on 5 October 2023

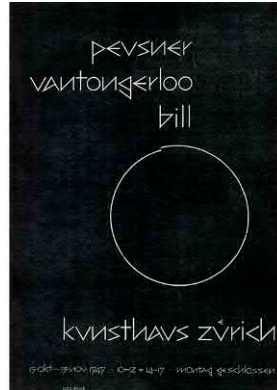


Max Bill (1908–1994) was one of the most versatile artists of the 20th Century, working as a designer, painter, sculptor, architect, graphic artist, furniture designer, typographer, writer, curator, educator, lecturer and politician. In her multivolume biography, art historian Angela Thomas uses a variety of sources—books, journals, interviews and several unpublished documents—to introduce readers to the artist's life and work and to explore the personal, cultural and political circles he was active in. Following the first volume of the biography, published in 2008, Thomas now devotes the second installment to Bill's life during World War II and the postwar period. 'von konstruktiver klarheit: max bill und seine zeit 1940–1952' will be released in German initially, with an English version to follow in 2024. In conjunction with the publication of the book, Hauser & Wirth will host a Book Lab on Max Bill in the gallery space of their Bahnhofstrasse location in Zurich from 5 October to 18 November.

In the second volume of the Bill biography, Angela Thomas draws a comprehensive picture of the influential artistic and intellectual networks that Bill was part of during the 1940s and beyond. His peers included pioneers of Concrete and Constructivist art, such as Wassily Kandinsky, Paul Klee, Josef Albers, Sophie Taeuber-Arp, Hans Arp, László Moholy-Nagy, Oskar Schlemmer and Georges Vantongerloo. Thomas looks back on Max Bill's time at the Bauhaus in Dessau, considers the Parisian avant-garde circles of the 1930s and discusses his membership of Abstraction-Création. She also focuses on his lifelong friendship with the artist Georges Vantongeloo and his relationships with the 'Zurich Concretists'—Richard Paul Lohse, Verena Loewensberg, Camille Graeser, Fritz Glarner and Hans Hinterreiter.



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Over the course of 840 pages and 255 images of works and photographs, some of which are from the author's own archive, Max Bill's unique role as a mediator between early modernism and a younger generation of Concrete artists becomes apparent. His impact as an exhibition organizer, writer and publisher is examined, as is his formative influence on the evolution of Concrete art in Latin America and his interest in issues relating to urban planning and reconstruction, which began in World War II and continued in the years that followed.

The first volume of the series, 'mit subversivem glanz: max bill und seine zeit 1908–1939,' was published by Scheidegger & Spiess in 2008 in German, followed by an English edition published by Hauser & Wirth Publishers in 2022. It focuses on Bill's childhood, his education at the Bauhaus and his return to Zurich, as well as Bill's private and public relationships—his exchanges with his family, teachers and peers, as well as their individual life trajectories.



About the author

Angela Thomas was the co-founder and editor of 'kassandra,' the first German-language feminist magazine for the visual arts (Berlin and Zurich, 1977/78). She met Max Bill in 1974 and married him in 1991. For twenty years she kept notes on their shared conversations, experiences and travels, as well as the exhibitions they curated together. After Max Bill's death, she founded the max bill georges vantongerloo foundation, which she still chairs as president.

In 1998 Angela Thomas married the director Erich Schmid; they live together in Max Bill's house and studio in Zumikon near Zurich and collaborated on the film 'Max Bill—das absolute Augenmass' (2008).



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von konstruktiver klarheit. max bill und seine zeit 1940 – 1952

Hauser & Wirth Zurich, Bahnhofstrasse

5 October – 18 November 2023

To mark the publication of the book, Hauser & Wirth Zurich on Bahnhofstrasse will present a Book Lab from 5 October to 18 November. In addition to various publications by and about Max Bill, works by the artist from the 1940s and 1950s will be on display, including paintings, sculptures and around ten drawings, some of which are being exhibited for the first time. One masterpiece from these years is the oil painting 'horizontal-vertikal-diagonal-rhythmus (Horizontal-vertical-diagonal-rhythm)' from 1942, which epitomizes Max Bill's aesthetic innovation and artistic freedom during this period and is characterized by the use of bright colors. The sculptures, on the other hand, such as 'konstruktion aus einem kreisring' (Construction from a Ring) from 1942, explore the circle as a shape and with it the concept of infinity and continuity, something that is central to the artist's practice. Bill is considered a seminal figure and the leading representative of Concrete art. He significantly reinterpreted the concept of the genre—originally coined by Theo van Doesburg—and made it internationally renowned thanks to his extensive artistic network and teaching activities.

Related Events

Thursday 5 October, 6 – 8 pm

Book Launch and Book Lab Opening

With author Angela Thomas

Hauser & Wirth Zurich, Bahnhofstrasse

Wednesday 1 November, 5.30 pm

Screening of 'Max Bill – das absolute Augenmass'

With director Erich Schmid

Arthouse Piccadilly Cinema, Zurich

Tuesday 24 October, 7 pm

Conversation and Book Signing

With author Angela Thomas and historian
Prof. Ita Heinze-Greenberg

Foyer Haefner at Chipperfield-Bau,
Kunsthaus Zürich

Thursday 2 November, 5 pm

Conversation and Book Signing

With author Angela Thomas and
curator Fabienne Eggelhöfer

Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern

In October 2023, 'von konstruktiver klarheit. max bill und seine zeit 1940–1952' will be the main focus of Hauser & Wirth Publishers' presentation at the Frankfurt Book Fair. This is the first time that the publishing house will take part in the fair as part of the joint booth of the Swiss Booksellers and Publishers Association (SBVV).



HAUSER & WIRTH PUBLISHERS

von konstruktiver klarheit: max bill und seine zeit 1940–1952

Written by Angela Thomas

Release date: October 5, 2023

In cooperation with the max bill georges vantongerloo foundation Designed by Sonja Zagermann

German; softcover with dust jacket

840 pages, 255 illustrations, 165 x 235 mm

ISBN 978-3-906915-68-5

£48/\$55/€52/CHF 52/HKD 450

An English edition will be published in spring 2024.

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Opening hours:

Tue – Fri, 10 am – 6 pm

Sat, 11 am – 5 pm

Caption and courtesy information:

Cover: 'von konstruktiver klarheit: max bill und seine zeit 1940–1952,' 2023

Courtesy of Hauser & Wirth Publishers

Max Bill
heller accord
1946

Oil on canvas
36.5 x 36.5 cm

Photo: Jon Etter

© 2023, Prolitteris, Zürich. Collection of Angela Thomas, Zumikon

Courtesy of max bill georges vantongerloo foundation and Hauser & Wirth

Photo postcard with Max Bill, Wladimir Vogel and Aline Valangin (and others), Comologno, Ticino, ca. 1934/35

Max Bill
Exhibition poster Antoine Pevsner, Georges Vantongerloo, Max Bill
Kunsthaus Zurich, 15.10 – 13.11.1949
Linocut

100 x 70 cm / 39 3/8 x 27 1/2 in

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Courtesy of the max bill georges vantongerloo foundation and Hauser & Wirth

Angela Thomas in Haus Bill, Zumikon Photo: Sim Canetty-Clarke

Max Bill
horizontal-vertikal-diagonal-rhythmus
(Horizontal-vertical-diagonal-rhythm)
1942

Oil on canvas

160 x 80 cm / 63 x 31 1/2 in

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Courtesy of the max bill georges vantongerloo foundation and Hauser & Wirth

Max Bill
konstruktion aus einem kreisring (Construction from a Ring)
1942

White marble

39.2 x 39.9 x 39.9 cm / 15 3/8 x 15 3/4 x 15 3/4 in

Photo: Jon Etter

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Courtesy of the max bill georges vantongerloo foundation and Hauser & Wirth