First Issue of West 86th

Kevin Stacey

The Bard Graduate Center and the University of Chicago Press are pleased to announce the publication of West 86th: A Journal of Decorative Arts, Design History, and Material Culture.

The digital edition of the inaugural issue (Spring 2011) is available free for a limited time for all visitors to the journal's home on the web: www.journals.uchicago.edu/wes. Select journal content, digital supplements, extras, and discussions are available at www.west86th.bgc.bard.edu. The print issue will mail to subscribers this week.

The new biannual journal, which takes its name from Bard's New York City address, is an international forum for research exploring the content, meaning, and significance of objects in their cultural and historical frameworks. It replaces Studies in the Decorative Arts, which Bard had published for 17 years.

The journal seeks the valuable input of design, art, and architecture historians; scholars of film, fashion, and material culture; as well as archaeologists, sociologists, and anthropologists. The aim is to analyze objects from a wide variety of perspectives in a forum where shared and differing approaches are respected. Content includes scholarly articles, review articles, and primary source translations, along with book, catalogue, and exhibition reviews.

"West 86th aims to bring interested scholars together," writes editor-in-chief Paul Stirton. "There is no narrow manifesto, and no methodological axe to grind. Both the specialist and the professional outsider should feel comfortable in a place reserved for good scholarship and profound ideas about the objects that surround us."
Included in the first issue:

Articles:
"Shanghai 1908: A. W. Bahr and China's First Art Exhibition"
--Nick Pearce

"Dior Before Dior"
--Lourdes Font

"Reassessing the Saul Bass and Alfred Hitchcock Collaboration"
--Pat Kirkham

Translated Text:
Passages from Why I Became an Architect by Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky
--Selected and Translated by Juliet Kinchin

Book Reviews:

Finbarr Flood, Objects of Translation: Material Culture and Medieval “Hindu-Muslim” Encounter
--Margaret Graves

James Macauley, Charles Rennie Mackintosh
--Ranald MacInnes

Barbara Predan & Cvetka Pozar, ISKRA: Non-Aligned Design 1946-1990
--David Crowley

Exhibition Reviews:
Blumen für Kim Il Sung: Kunst und Architektur aus der Demokratischen Volksrepublik Korea / Flowers for Kim Il Sung: Art and Architecture from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
--Jane Portal

Quilts 1700–2010
--Janis Jefferies

How Secretaries Changed the 20th-Century Office: Design, Image, and Culture
--Alexander Watt

Cosi tísnivého: Surrealismus a grafický design /Uncanny: Surrealism and Graphic Design
--Marta Filipova

For subscription information, go to www.journals.uchicago.edu/wes, email subscriptions@press.uchicago.edu or call 877-705-1878 (outside the U.S. and Canada, call 773-753-3347).

Reference:
ANN: First Issue of West 86th. In: ArtHist.net, Feb 12, 2011 (accessed Nov 26, 2026),
<https://arthist.net/archive/906>.