

# CHAIR TIMES

## A History of Seating

A Film by Heinz Bütler



## Synopsis

The film *Chair Times* leads on a path through a 'sea of chairs': 125 objects dating from 1807 to the latest 3D printed designs are arranged in the order of their production years, forming a timeline of modern seating design in the Vitra Schaudapot. Which objects would professionals in the design field want to talk about? The roster of experts includes designers Hella Jongerius, Antonio Citterio, and Ronan Bouroullec, the architects and collectors Arthur Rüegg and Ruggero Tropeano, architect David Chipperfield, Peter Noever as Director Emeritus of MAK Vienna/Los Angeles, Vitra Design Museum director Mateo Kries, and VDM curators Amelie Klein and Jochen Eisenbrand as well as VDM collection curator Serge Mauduit. Serving as a guide on this journey into the past of seating design is Rolf Fehlbaum, Chairman Emeritus of Vitra.

The Vitra Schaudapot is the starting point for a cinematic journey through the wide world of chairs – along a timeline from 1800 to today.

## **Participants**

### **Rolf Fehlbaum**

Chairman Emeritus Vitra  
Founder Vitra Design Museum  
Collector

### **Mateo Kries**

Vitra Design Museum, Director

### **Ronan Bouroullec**

Designer

### **Christian Brändle**

Museum für Gestaltung Zürich, Director

### **David Chipperfield**

Architect

### **Antonio Citterio**

Architect, Designer

### **Jochen Eisenbrand**

Vitra Design Museum, Chief Curator

### **Ulrich Fiedler**

Collector, Gallery Owner

### **Hella Jongerius**

Designer

### **Amelie Klein**

Vitra Design Museum, Curator

### **Serge Mauduit**

Vitra Design Museum, Curator Collection

### **Peter Noever**

Director Emeritus MAK Wien/Los Angeles

### **Arthur Rüegg**

Architect, Collector

### **Leonie Samland**

Vitra Design Museum, Assistant Conservator

### **Ruggero Tropeano**

Architect, Collector

## **Crew**

Director: **Heinz Bütler**  
Producer: **Laurin Merz**  
Camera: **Sergio Cassini, Franco di Nunzio, Peter Hammann**  
Sound: **Bernhard Zitz**  
Sound mixer: **Beat Solèr**  
Editing: **Anja Bombelli**  
Title design / Color grading: **Paul Avondet, peakfein**  
Production assistance: **Barbara Praschnig**  
Music: **Tethered Moon «Experiencing Tosca»**

Production  
**HOOK Film & Kultur Produktion GmbH**

in collaboration with  
**Vitra Design Museum**



'Chairs are important witnesses of their time. This is true regardless of whether they express the fashion of a momentary trend or represent an epochal idea. They are portraits of their users and reflections of the production methods from which they emerge. Thus we are able to perceive and comprehend an era – its social organization, its materials and technology, its aesthetic tastes – by observing its chairs. I would even claim that chairs are more multifaceted than any other everyday object.'

Rolf Fehlbaum, Chairman Emeritus of Vitra

## **Filmografie Heinz Bütler**

### **Documentaries (selected)**

#### **Visual arts**

Zur Besserung der Person (1980)

Im Land Kollombye.? (1985)

Hauser Johann. Der Zeichner bin ich (1986)

Alberto Giacometti – Die Augen am Horizont (2001)

Balthus (2001)

Ferdinand Hodler – Das Herz ist mein Auge (2004)

Félix Vallotton – Maler gegen die Zeit (2005)

Andreas Walser – Die Nacht ist heller als der Tag (2007)

Rembrandt und sein Sammler (Eberhard Kornfeld) (2008)

Gelebte Kunst. Der Sammler Eberhard W. Kornfeld (2008)

Der Erste Weltkrieg. Kunst und Krieg.\* (2010)

Was ist Dada?\*(2011)

Bilderwelten vom Grossen Krieg.\* (2011)

\*in collaboration with Alexander Kluge

#### **Photography**

Henri Cartier-Bresson – Biografie eines Blicks (2003)

Riviera Cocktail – Edward Quinn, Photographer, Nice (2006)

Der Spiegel mit Gedächtnis (2008)

#### **Literatur**

Pessoa (1995/96)

Wer hat Angst vor James Joyce. Mit Fritz Senn in Dublin (1997)

Paul Nizon. Der erotische Kontinent Paris (2000)

Merzluft (2016)

#### **Design/Graphic Design**

Ettore Sottsass – Der Sinn der Dinge (2002)

Bruno Monguzzi Monguzzi – La mosca e la ragnatela (2017)

Chair Times (2018)

## **Film**

Genre: **Documentary film**

Length: **90'**

Language versions: **D,E/d and D,E/e**

Year & country of production: **2018, Switzerland**

Age rating: **6**

Suisa No. **1013.213**

ISAN 0000-0005-4B36-0000-I-0000-0000-K

Trailer: [vimeo.com/312808307/1cb9830d8e](https://vimeo.com/312808307/1cb9830d8e)



## **Accompanying book**

256 pages

Size: 190 x 212 mm

Hardcover, inner book block with sewn binding

German/English

The book *CHAIR TIMES – A History of Seating* is published in conjunction with the film of the same title.

It contains a USB flash drive including the main film (90 min., D/E subtitles) and 16 short films entitled *Chair Stories*, which focus on individual themes of the main film (210 min., D/E subtitles) and feature Jacques Herzog & Pierre de Meuron (architects of the Vitra Schaudapot), the gallerist and collector Ulrich Fiedler, and many others.

© HOOK Film & Vitra Design Museum 2018

ISBN 978-3-945852-28-6

## **Contact**

**HOOK Film & Kultur Produktion GmbH**  
Schöneeggstrasse 5, CH-8004 Zurich, Switzerland  
+41 44 500 24 68

[info@hook-film.com](mailto:info@hook-film.com)  
[www.hook-film.com](http://www.hook-film.com)