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PRESS RELEASE

The Imaginary Collection April 27 – May 27, 2023

*Curated by Diandra Donecker and Andreas Murkudis
Opening: Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 6–9 pm (during Gallery Weekend Berlin)*

Presented in collaboration with e15 at ANDREAS MURKUDIS, Potsdamer Str. 98, 10785 Berlin

Von Bartha is pleased to announce the fifth edition of *The Imaginary Collection*, an ongoing series of temporary exhibitions curated by collectors and art enthusiasts within their domestic spaces. Running from April 27 to May 27, 2023, the newest edition will be curated by Diandra Donecker, art historian and Managing Partner of Grisebach, and Andreas Murkudis, fashion and design retailer, at ANDREAS MURKUDIS, Potsdamer Str. 98 in Berlin. Artworks from von Bartha's program, including **Etienne Béothy, Anna Dickinson, Athene Galiciadis, Camille Graeser, Terry Haggerty, Auguste Herbin, Lajos Kassák, Imi Knoebel, Karim Noureldin, Gerhard von Graevenitz, and Claudia Wieser** are presented in dialogue with iconic design pieces by David Chipperfield, Richard Herre, Stefan Diez, Farah Ebrahimi, Philipp Mainzer, and more, provided by e15.

In this fantastical exhibition, modernists and constructivists meet contemporaries and classics. Just like every private collection reflects a certain attitude, the choice of works here again allows for speculations on the curators' taste, style, and characters. Both Diandra Donecker and Andreas Murkudis are art enthusiasts and share a fascination for artists of their time, as Donecker states: *“The saying „A life without art is possible, but pointless“ has a lot of truth. Visual arts, music, dance, or theatre, are not to be regarded as luxuries but are essential and identity-forming, spiritually stimulating, and enriching our lives. Every painting says something about its time. It is a document and a source. Sometimes I literally hear the whisperings from the walls at home. Through art, contemplation, and dialogue, I can time travel and get to know myself differently. Privately, I don't collect in any fixed direction, according to epochs or themes - each work must trigger something in me and make it resound. So, photography meets drawing, meets painting, meets an antique head from western Greece: the small collection we assemble is a collage of passions and visual pleasures.”*

This temporary project gives the opportunity for unexpected curatorial decisions and leads to juxtapositions and combinations that reveal little stories when, for instance, a work by Lajos Kassák returns to Potsdamer Str., where he held important shows at the gallery Der Sturm in the early 20th century. In the exhibition, a few German artists of different generations will be presented in dialogues, such as Claudia Wieser, Imi Knoebel, and Gerhard von Graevenitz - all tracing and exploring geometric seriality and abstraction, allowing viewers to make connections and speculate on their inspiration or mutual influence. Building on that are combinations of legendary Swiss Concrete artist Camille Graeser with the contemporary,

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Zurich-based Athene Galiciadis, or Anna Dickinson's satellite-like sculptures with that of the sculptor and architect Etienne Béothy. *"Camille Graeser's works are particularly captivating to me because they manage to be simple yet complex at the same time. I have often dabbled with the idea of buying a Graeser for my own home, so I think it's very fitting that his works are a part of this exhibition that is meant to reflect our personal tastes in art in conjunction with interior design,"* Andreas Murkudis pointedly summarizes.

Since its foundation in 1995, art has informed the work of e15 through collaborations with artists, museums, and joint presentations. Expanding on the holistic approach of *The Imaginary Collection*, e15 with Farah Ebrahimi have created living scenes that inspire a visual dialogue with the selected art, adding a formative layer to the installation.

The curated presentation of art and furniture illustrates an inspiring dialogue between cultures, forms, and disciplines. Expressive compositions allow for individual interpretation and use for everyday life. Part of the furniture presentation are new releases by e15, including GALERIE, a table by David Chipperfield, which was originally designed for the café of the Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin. Evolving with the study of forms and materials, e15 also showcases a distinct group of side tables - KAISA in glass by Annabelle Klute and HEIJI in lacquered plywood by Philipp Mainzer. In addition to design classics such as the chair STUTTGART by Richard Herre and HOUDINI by Stephan Diez, the modular sofa KERMAN by Farah Ebrahimi and Philipp Mainzer offer an intriguing base for living with exceptional art. *"The Imaginary Collection explores the concept of living with art alongside furniture, allowing the pieces to communicate a certain presence and enduring style - good art deserves good furniture,"* states Farah Ebrahimi, art director at e15.

A [preview of the artworks](#) presented by von Bartha can be found [here](#).

A preview of e15's design pieces can be found as of April 14 at www.e15.com/press

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About Andreas Murkudis

Andreas Murkudis is considered one of Germany's most renowned and experienced retailers in the design and fashion sector. The owner of three stores of the same name in Berlin offers in his assortment unique objects, which transcend short-lived trend cycles and are of utmost quality. In the spacious architecture of his stores, Andreas Murkudis showcases designer fashion, objects, cosmetics, interior design, and home accessories. 2022 marked the 20th Anniversary of the MURKUDIS universe. Over the past two decades, Murkudis has established himself as an indispensable driving force of Berlin's creative scene.

www.andreasmurkudis.com

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About e15

e15 is a premium interior brand renowned for its collection of iconic furniture. Based in Frankfurt, Germany, the company stands for consistent, progressive design coupled with high-grade materials and innovative, handcrafted production methods. With a strong foundation in architecture and design, the brand is defined by the unique backgrounds of architect and founder Philipp Mainzer together with designer and art director Farah Ebrahimi. Since 1995, e15 develops original products and supports artistic statements, which reflect the brand's philosophy and open approach to diverse cultures and disciplines. In addition to design classics by protagonists of Modernism, the collection evolves from close cooperation with a coterie of designers, architects, and artists.

www.e15.com

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About von Bartha

With its galleries in Basel (CH) and Copenhagen (DK), von Bartha promotes contemporary artists such as Christian Andersson, Olaf Breuning, Athene Galiciadis, Landon Metz, Felipe Mujica, Sarah Oppenheimer, Francisco Sierra, Claudia Wieser, and others, while supporting the further development of the practices of its established artists such as Marina Adams, Anna Dickinson, Imi Knoebel, Ursula Reuter Christiansen, Bob & Roberta Smith, Barbara Stauffacher Solomon, Superflex, to name a few.

Founded in 1970 by Margareta and Miklos von Bartha and now run in second generation by Stefan von Bartha, the gallery continues to oversee the careers and estates of artists and movements such as Arte Madí / Arte Concreto, Olle Baertling, Marianne Eigenheer, Barry Flanagan, Fritz Glarner, Camille Graeser, Yves Laloy, Aurélie Nemours, and Gerhard von Graevenitz.

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