

Press Release June 2025

Exhibition

“Milieu Things – Of Class and Taste”

Opening: June 18, 2025, 19:00 (free entrance)

Duration: June 19, 2025 – March 2, 2026

We cordially invite you to the press preview of the exhibition “Milieudinge - von Klasse und Geschmack” on June 17, 2025, from 12 to 14:00.

From the price scissor to the career ladder or the so-called elevator effect – the way we talk about society is rife with object metaphors. And yet these objects are also full of social relations themselves. They reveal facts about the balance of power and social belonging. Their meanings can shift over time or elude clear categorizations. And not least, they tell us about how society is divided into groups. This exhibition focuses on precisely such “milieu things”.

This exhibition focuses on linking everyday objects with structural models of society. Class pyramids, Dahrendorf houses, and potato charts all show how and why society is divided into different social groups. The relationship between socioeconomic factors – such as income, occupation, and education – and individual values, mentalities, and lifestyles thus becomes visible.

In the exhibition, classes, strata, and milieus collide with dumbbells, socks, and truffle oil. The combination of theoretical and material aspects is intended to encourage visitors to reflect on social inequality and mechanisms of distinction – and also to address the issue of their own social categorisation.

Audio commentaries by invited experts address different realities of life and offer their – migrant, Black, anti-ableist, and sociological – perspectives on the exhibited objects.

As a prologue to the exhibition, there is a themed trail through the museum’s display collection that sheds light on the Deutscher Werkbund’s ideas about class and taste.

With artistic works by:

Verena Brakonier

Josephine Findeisen

rampe:action

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Opening programme

Opening with drinks service "Luxus für alle" ("Luxury for All") by Josephine Findeisen

Music by Paule Jr.

Reading and lecture series

(in German)

Thu 17.7.2025, 18:00

Reading and talk with Daniela Dröscher ("Zeige deine Klasse" "Check your habitus")

Thu 25.9.2025, 18:00

Veronika Bachfischer, Christoph Gawenda (Schaubühne Berlin) read (translated) texts by Didier Eribon, Annie Ernaux, Édouard Louis

Thu 16.10.2025, 18:00

Reading and talk with Ciani-Sophia Hoeder ("Vom Tellerwäscher zum Tellerwäscher")

Thu 13.11.2025, 18:00

Reading and talk with Anke Stelling ("Bodentiefe Fenster", "Schäfchen im Trockenen")

Thu 4.12.2025, 18:00

Lecture by Nora Sternfeld: "Wer sind alle? Oder: Was Museen lernen können"

Thu 22.1.2026, 18:00

Reading and talk with Christian Baron ("Ein Mann seiner Klasse", "Drei Schwestern")

Thu 19.2.2026, 18:00

Reading and talk with Marlen Hobrack ("Klassenbeste", "Erbgut")

Mon 2.3.2026, 18:00

Lecture by Jutta Allmendinger: "Klassismus und mangelnde Bildungsgerechtigkeit"

Moderation: Renate Flagmeier

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In addition to the reading and lecture series, the exhibition is accompanied by an outreach programme that includes workshops, guided tours and presentations.

Curation
Alexander Renz

Curatorial Collaboration
Imke Volkers

Scenography
Kooperative für Darstellungspolitik

Exhibition graphic
KaranKobel

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact:
Olivia Lott
lott@museumderdinge.de
+49 (0)30 92 10 63 77

Press previews:
June 17, 2025, 12:00 – 14:00.
The curators will guide through the exhibition at 12:30.
Please apply at: lott@museumderdinge.de.

Funded by:



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