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Press Release November 2026

Object Stage
“Trude Petri-Raben – Between Berlin and Chicago”

Opening: 25 November 2026, 6 pm
Duration: 26 November 2026 – 26 April 2027

Since the 1930s, Trude Petri-Raben (1906–1998) has been regarded as one of the most important designers of finely crafted manufactory porcelain. With her “Urbino” tableware service, created in 1932, she achieved a milestone in modern porcelain design. To this day, this successful service is featured in almost every major survey of 20th-century German and European design and represents the avant-garde of around 1930.

Less well known is Petri-Raben’s life and work following her emigration to the United States in 1949. In Chicago, she discovered new artistic freedoms and turned to other materials and techniques. Working with stoneware, in particular, became an important field of experimentation.

25 August 2026 marked the 120th anniversary of Trude Petri-Raben’s birth. The presentation on the Object Stage, curated by Klára Němečková, brings together the reception history of “Urbino” and Petri-Raben’s hitherto little-examined period of work in the United States. Historical photographs, designs and objects trace the development of her work between Berlin and Chicago.

4.2 m²: The Object Stage at the Werkbundarchiv – Museum der Dinge provides a space within the permanent exhibition for collaborations, artistic interventions and new perspectives on the collection.

Programme

25 November 2026, 6 pm
Opening with a talk on Trude Petri-Raben by Dr. des. Klára Němečková

4 February 2027, 6 pm
Modern KPM Porcelain in the 20th Century, a talk by Tim D. Gronert

8 April 2027, 6 pm
Curator’s tour with Dr. des. Klára Němečková

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Curation: Klára Němečková, art historian and curator

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HAUPT STADT KULTUR FONDS

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