

## Preface

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The two symposia «100 years of bauhaus—a critical discourse» in September 2018 and «taking a stand? debating the bauhaus and modernism» in November 2019 did more than simply providing a framework for the Bauhaus anniversary in Berlin, for they focused in addition on a critical, polyphonic engagement with the Bauhaus. While in 2018 international participants explored how visions of artistic and societal renewal associated with the Bauhaus can assume relevance today, the 2019 conference examined a hugely diverse range of attitudes adopted by Bauhäusler (former Bauhaus teachers and students) and modernist architects as émigrés, in exile, in divided Germany and in conflict-ridden political situations. Closely intermeshing the symposium with a school project also afforded scope to explore the potential of an early dialogue between academia and cultural/political education, shedding light on the sparks of inspiration this can generate on both sides. That proved fruitful precisely because the concept of taking a stand spans a broad nexus of ideas for investigating the Bauhaus—ranging from practical issues of how and where we live, scrutiny of our own actions and opportunities for collaborative work, through to the major topics of our era, such as how we handle resources and sustainability.

We are also breaking new ground with the curated format of this publication, now significantly expanded beyond the scope of the symposium. In addition to traditional reading modes, it offers new content-driven approaches and readings via overarching questions and keywords. Andrea Bärnreuther's great merit lies not only in having conceived and implemented the two symposia and this publication with a hugely farsighted vision and enormous commitment, but furthermore especially in having opened up the Bauhaus to the future and made it fruitful as part of an «entangled history» and as a driving force for transcultural exchange in interdisciplinary research areas. We cannot thank her enough for this! Finally, on behalf of the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung, I would like to express our gratitude to all our sponsors for their great support: the Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung [Federal Agency for Civic Education], the Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa des Landes Berlin [Senate Department for Culture and Europe of the Federal State of Berlin], and the Kulturstiftung des Bundes [German Federal Cultural Foundation].