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Bauhaus centenary—Ludwig Hirschfeld

Saturday 23 February to Sunday 26 May
Free entry—open daily 10am to 5pm

The centenary of the influential Bauhaus school of art, design and architecture is being celebrated around the world this year including an in-focus exhibition at **Geelong Gallery**.

Founded in the German city of Weimar in 1919 where it operated until its move to Dessau in 1925 and later Berlin, the school closed in 1933 as the political climate of pre-World War II Germany shifted. Despite its closure after only 14 years in operation, the influence of the Bauhaus school continued: its teachings spread across the world and reached Australia through émigré artist **Ludwig Hirschfeld Mack** (1893–1965).

Born in Frankfurt, Hirschfeld Mack initially studied at the Stuttgart Academy where he was introduced to colour theory and printmaking. He enrolled at the Weimar Bauhaus in 1919 where he studied under Johannes Itten, Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky, and was apprenticed to Lyonel Feininger in the print workshop. His years at the Bauhaus school consolidated his interest in the application of colour theory, specifically in the development of Colour Light Plays (*Farbenlichtspiele*)—a complex machine built and operated by Hirschfeld Mack that projected compositions of moving coloured light accompanied by his own musical scores.

With the rise of Nazism and the onset of WWII, Hirschfeld Mack departed Germany for England in 1936. In 1938 his work was included in a Bauhaus retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art, New York. He was deported to Australia in 1940 as an enemy alien on the *Dunera* and interned at Hay and Orange, New South Wales, and at Tatura, Victoria. His release from detention was championed by Dr James Darling, headmaster at Geelong Church of England Grammar, who appointed Hirschfeld Mack to the position of art master at the school in 1942. Hirschfeld Mack was an influential teacher at Geelong Grammar—and across the wider Geelong region—until his retirement in 1957.

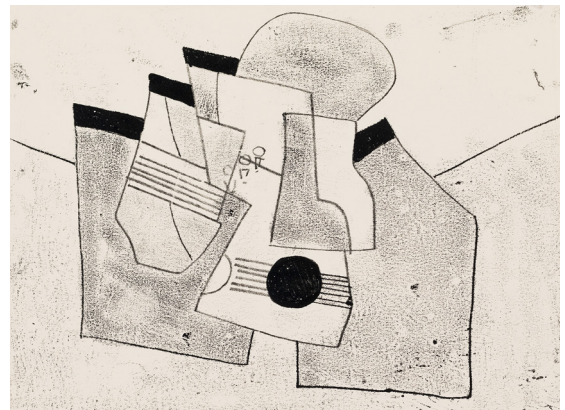
After his death in 1965, Hirschfeld Mack's widow Olive Hirschfeld donated works to a number of key galleries: Geelong Gallery received 29 works in 1976 in recognition of the artist's connection to the region.

Geelong Gallery **Senior Curator Lisa Sullivan** says 'This exhibition of paintings, prints, and three-dimensional objects by Hirschfeld Mack is drawn from the significant gift made by Olive, augmented by works subsequently gifted by others. Spanning four decades, the works reflect the principles of the Bauhaus teachings and Hirschfeld Mack's ongoing interest in colour, abstraction and music as universal languages.'

This exhibition is programmed to mark the Bauhaus centenary and in recognition of Geelong's designation as a UNESCO City of Design.



Ludwig Hirschfeld Mack
Untitled (*The musicians*) 1962
calcimine and watercolour on canvas
Geelong Gallery
Gift of Mrs Olive Hirschfeld, 1976



Ludwig Hirschfeld Mack
Untitled (*Musical instruments*) 1950–65
monotype
Geelong Gallery
Gift of Mrs Olive Hirschfeld, 1976

Exhibition partner:
William Angliss (Victoria) Charitable Fund

This exhibition is part of Melbourne Design Week 2019 organised by NGV in collaboration with Creative Victoria.

Public program:
For public program information connected to this exhibition, visit www.geelonggallery.org.au/whats-on/events