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The Giedion World

Siegfried Giedion and Carola Giedion-Welcker in Dialogue

Edited by Almut Grunewald

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- Sigfried and Carola Giedion-Welcker rank among the most distinguished and influential scholars of modern art history
- This is the first-ever exploration of their vast estate, offering a revaluation of their work and significance
- Richly illustrated with previously unpublished documents and other images

Sigfried Giedion (1888-1968) and Carola Giedion-Welcker (1893-1979) were among the most distinguished and influential scholars of art and architectural history during the 20th century's earlier dacades. Of particular impact was their role in connecting leading protagonists of modernism in architecture, art, and literature, such as Alvar Aalto, Hans Arp, Constantin Brancusi, Marcel Breuer, Max Ernst, Walter Gropius, Barbara Hepworth, Le Corbusier, László Moholy-Nagy, Piet Mondrian, or Sophie Taeuber-Arp. The discourses they initiated, for example on the New Vision in photography or a 'Synthesis of Arts', have lost nothing of their relevance and provide new starting points through to the present day.

The estate of Sigfried and Carola Giedion-Welcker is today kept in Zurich at ETH Zurich's Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture, the Swiss Institute for Art Research, the University of Zurich's Institute of Romance Studies, and the James Joyce Foundation. It comprises some 16,000 letters, 10,000 photographic prints and negatives, a wealth of other papers, and a vast library.

This new book offers a re-evaluation of Sigfried and Carola Giedion-Welcker's work, impact, and lasting significance. The editor and contributors were the first to draw fully on the estate, which has been opened entirely to researchers only recently. Featuring a vast number of previously unpublished documents and other images alongside excerpts from the extensive correspondence the two maintained with their artist friends and colleagues in academia, it provides a unique and manifold insight into the 'Giedion universe'.

Almut Grunewald is a scholar of art history, working as a research assistant at ETH Zurich's Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture. **Arthur Rüegg**, born 1942, is professor emeritus for architecture and building construction at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich). He took his degree in architecture from ETH Zurich in 1967 and ran his own studio ARCOOP in Zürich 1971-98. He has published widely on architecture and architectural history in books and journals and is a renowned expert on the work of Le Corbusier.






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