

Plakat, Cuisine électrique – Économique – Exquise – Propre – Pratique, um 1930 Erscheinungsland: Frankreich Gestaltung: Jean Carlu Auftrag: Compagnie parisienne de distribution d'électricité, CPDE, Paris, FR Material / Technik: Lithografie 30 × 23 cm Eigentum: Museum für Gestaltung Zürich / ZHdK

Jean Carlu's (1900–1997) poster, designed around 1930, surprises with its modern design language. The progressive style is ideal for communicating the advertising message: on offer are state-of-the-art kitchen appliances.

A Cubist formal vocabulary and a reduced composition emphasizing the plane are characteristic of Jean Carlu's early posters. He was among the leading French poster designers of the 1920s and 1930s. It is clear from his abstracted posters that he came from a family of architects and aimed to become one himself. After losing his right arm in an accident, Carlu dedicated himself to graphic design.

The outline of the stylized housekeeper figure is taken up in the lines of the lettering. Image and text blend together into a unified composition that is tilted slightly from the vertical. The coin purse in the outstretched hand emphasizes the argument for economy. When compared with the purely informative reverse side of the poster, the progressive nature of the design becomes even more apparent. At the same time, it is consonant with a number of modernist posters from the 1930s that were

Museum für Gestaltung Zürich Zürcher Hochschule der Künste designed for the Salon des arts ménagers (Household Arts Show), which had been presenting the latest household inventions annually since 1923. (Bettina Richter)

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