

Press Release  
Frankenberg, April 2019

## **In brilliant form: the wooden chair 118 Design: Sebastian Herkner, 2018/2019**

**The elegant range 118 by Sebastian Herkner for Thonet receives an eye-catching new finish: deep black and dark blue, rich dark red, contemporary antique pink and mint, plus dark brown-violet are the six expressive high-gloss colours adding a chic new polish to this popular design.**



### **A ‘young’ chair with the potential to become another Thonet classic presents a bold new look**

The bridge that the 118 chair builds between tradition and today arises from its direct familial relationship with the archetypal Thonet icon, the Coffee House Chair 214 (formerly no. 14), and by grace of its simple yet sophisticated design. With its elegant frame bent by hand from a single piece of wood and comfortable seat with the option of wicker caning, the 118 range refers directly to the principle developed by Michael Thonet in the mid-19th century of reducing a chair to as few elements as possible.

Now, six new high-gloss colours join the existing choices of finish for the chairs, with options for either moulded, caned or upholstered seats, as well as for the bar stools in the range which will be available in two different heights. An interplay of light creates unique reflections on the sleek surface, emphasising the subtle elegance of the design. Lacquer has always lent decorative objects that special something – from the art of Japanese lacquerware to numerous Art Deco furniture designs and to centrepieces such as precious grand pianos. Sebastian Herkner explains: “Lacquer epitomises history, culture, and style; it gives the object depth.” In these carefully considered new colours and statement high-gloss finish, the 118 can become a design feature in any space.

The 118, 118 H and 118 SP will all be available in a choice of natural beech and in lacquered and stained versions, as well as in these six new high-gloss lacquer colours. The seat is available as covered with wicker cane, as a moulded seat, or in an upholstered version.

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### **Thonet – future-oriented furniture design with a long tradition**

*The unique success story of Thonet began with the work of master carpenter Michael Thonet. Since establishing his first workshop in Boppard on the River Rhine in 1819, the name Thonet has stood for high-quality, innovative and elegant furniture. The breakthrough came with the iconic chair No. 14, the so-called Vienna Coffee House Chair: the pioneering technique of bending solid beech wood for the first time enabled the mass production of chairs. The second milestone in design history was the tubular steel furniture by the famous Bauhaus architects Mart Stam, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Marcel Breuer in the 1930s. At the time, Thonet was the world's largest producer of these tubular steel furniture designs, which are considered timeless today.*

*For the company today, the continuous process of innovation stands in the foreground alongside a focus on tradition and fine craftsmanship. Thonet collaborates with renowned national and international designers – in addition, some of the furniture is designed by the in-house Thonet Design Team. All of the furniture is produced in the company-owned manufacturing facility, and, following the motto "Individuality is our standard", custom-tailored solutions are part of everyday life in Frankenberg. Chief Executive Officer Brian Boyd together with Chief Operating Officer Michael Erdelt and Creative Director Norbert Ruf manage the company at the corporate head offices and production site in Frankenberg/Eder (Germany). The descendants of Michael Thonet, the fifth and sixth generations, are actively involved with the company's business as partners and sales representatives.*