

In 1929 Charles Eames marries Catherine Dewey Woermann. In 1933 America is in a crisis. Charles goes to Mexico with only 75 cents in his pocket. When he comes back Charles starts a architecture buro with Robert Walsh. Eliel Saarinen sees one of their works and offers Charles a scholarship for the Cranbrook Academy of Arts. Ray starts at the academy five years later. Charles is her teacher. Charles divorces from his wife in May and marries Ray in June.



*Charles and Ray Eames*

Together they created their own office. They held on to the themes of their choice until the subject came to its logical ending. They wanted to offer as many people as possible the best quality for the lowest price.



Ray and Charles did a lot of different things. They were busy with design, architecture, textiles, photography. They did it all! For my research I focussed on the photographs. They had a database with everything that inspired them, containing thousands, and thousands of slides. I find these slides very inspiring. It's eyeopening to see what you are surrounded by. On the website of the Library of Congress you can find some of these slides. The images always look quite nostalgic and very warm to me. But that's probably because it's from a whole different timeperiod.

Next to the slides they also made a lot of videos. They made the very famous film: Powers of Ten, a film dealing with the Relative Size of things and the Effect of Adding another Zero. I find it very intriguing that they knew so much about the world at that time already. I like how they combine the media and science with their view on design and the world. Another very nostalgic film is the film they made for the Polaroid SX70. All the work they made was produced in their atelier in Washington Boulevard Venice, California. After they're both dead a movie is made, which shows what the atmosphere was like in that place. The movie was almost like a magical experience to me. The movie is called 901, after 45 years of working. I would advise you to go and see the movie. You can buy it at Bebob Design. It's a designshop on the Prinsengracht 764. There you can also find the House of Cards. A game Ray and Charles invented. I admire Ray and Charles for their diversity and their quantity. For me they balance on a very thin border between design and science. Some works are quite free and autonomous, while others are more commercial. I would have loved to meet them, but especially through the 901 movie I feel like I met them a little bit...

*Tara van Viegen*