

UNSIGHTED

15–22 April 2018, 10am–7pm

Via Cesare Correnti 14, Milan

UNSIGHTED

For Milan Design Week 2018, in the heart of 5vie, the unique historical central neighbourhood of Milan, Nicolas Bellavance-Lecompte proposes a survey of international contemporary designers featuring new collectible design works inside a remarkable milanese palazzo. Eight international designers were asked to produce a work while unaware of the context. The brief was maybe an anti-brief, asking to make something that doesn't have to be anything. Without standard parameters, the project aims to emancipate the designer from notions of style, spatial specifications and project demands. The focus is on creating objects that are active and autonomous agents in their environment, not complementing a space, but impacting it in their own right.

CURATOR

Nicolas Bellavance-Lecompte is a Milan-based Canadian architect, curator and gallerist, who's work crosses various mediums in the world of contemporary design. He co-founded Carwan Gallery in 2011 in Beirut, where he serves as art director. Furthermore, Nicolas has curated design exhibitions for Beirut Art Center, Am Qattan Foundation in London and House of Today x Wallpaper* among others. Nicolas is especially dedicated to collectible design, having co-founded the new fair Nomad in Monaco and St. Moritz, which has already established a strong and international network of notable vip, collectors, design patrons and gallerists.

HOUSE OF DEMONS

Historically renamed as the house of demons, the property is a remarkable example of 19th century residential construction in milan. The square-shaped courtyard delimited by porticos trapped on tuscan columns, the terrace delimited by balustrades with stone candlestick and the a romantic garden that gradually ascends to the north of the property define this very iconic building. Bronze, dark and burial angels run under the ceiling of the main rooms, perhaps to protect it. The sign of time is truly alive on the tapestry, the floors and fixtures giving almost a haunted feel to the singular place.

5VIE

The exhibition is produced by 5 vie Art + Design, a non-profit cultural association which aims at drawing attention to Milan Old Town. The Association coordinates different stakeholders along with trade associations, schools, associations and foundations that work in the social sector, private and public events, the Diocese, residents, among others. It interacts with the Municipality of Milan and it counts with Fondazione Cariplo as a special partner.

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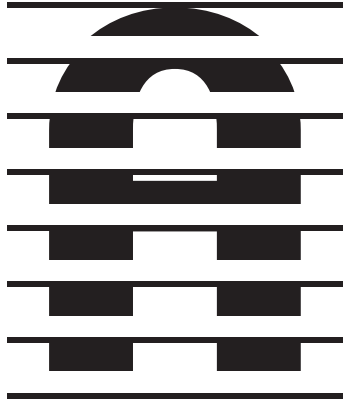
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Anton Alvarez,
Sweden Chile



Swedish-Chilean Anton Alvarez is a 2012 graduate from the Royal College of Art in London. Alvarez originally studied cabinetmaking before completing an Interior Architecture and Furniture Design course at Konstfack. Alvarez's work focuses on the design of systems and the creation of tools for producing products, objects and architecture. His practice is process-oriented and led by curiosity and surprise rather than a specific material. Currently a resident at the Archie Bray Foundation in Montana, USA he is exploring ceramics through his Extruder Machine.

Yves Kiln, 2018

Various works in glazed ceramic

Dimensions vary for each piece in the series

The clay has been pressed through a curious yet elaborate machine called The Extruder, fully designed by Alvarez. By extending his abilities as a maker technologically he distances himself from the process and invites elements of chaos and surprise.

Bahraini Danish,
Bahrain



Bahraini-Danish is an establishment formed in Bahrain by architects Batool Alshaikh, Maitham Almubarak, and Christian Vennerstrøm Jensen. Motivated by the desire to explore local opportunities to create, they are defined not so much by their individual backgrounds but rather by how new territories unfold when they overlap. Often designing objects which can be disassembled and have an architectural dimension, the trio understands tradition as a place of common ground and often works with local artisans. Coming from a special place, their work continues to radiate from Manama into the world.

Unsighted tables, 2018

Seven individual coffee and side tables cut from stone

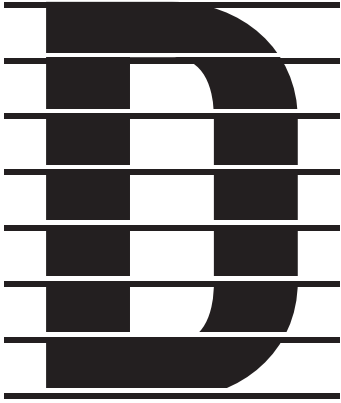
Giallo Avorio Marble

Dimensions vary for each piece in the series

Each table is a rectangle with a cut side which can be put against any wall in any room, making the table stand out into the space. With all cut sides aligned to an invisible rectangle, they inscribe a space within the space and make up a group of familiar objects with an implicit logic.

This project was produced with the generous support of Casone Group.

Dana Barnes,
USA

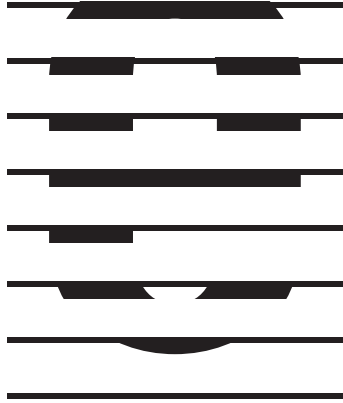


Dana Barnes creates textural and sculptural works, objects, and site-specific architectural installations solely made by hand. Having studied fashion design and worked in the industry as a first career, she now uses innovative wet-bonding processes in which woollen and exotic fibre masses are fused with contrasting elements, both natural and manmade. In her New York studio Barnes' melds fibres with concrete, stone, wood, copper, clay, resin, rubber and, most recently, knotted antique Persian carpets for texture and contrast. Informed by material paradoxes and the sensual beauty of natural forces, Barnes' work aspires to evoke a deep visceral and physical connection.

Gnarled, 2018
Sculpted wool

Dana Barnes' sculpted wool mass melds raw fibres using techniques of hand-knotting and meticulous shearing to create a wet-bonded amorphous structure. Referencing the distortions of knurled protuberances found in wooden terra firma, the result is an abstract articulation that celebrates the organic qualities of the textural form.

Eric Schmitt,
France



Eric Schmitt, prefers to show rather than demonstrate. He says: “a piece of furniture needs to exude silence so it can be loved for a long time.” He began in 1986 as a self-taught artist who welded alone all his first pieces. In 1997 he left Paris to live and work at the edge of the Fontainebleau forest. In his workshop pieces are created, designed and shaped, and then entrusted to the best craftsmen. Today reviewing in a modern way with the French tradition of creative arts, his creations are produced and signed in limited edition.

Padirac Lighting, 2018

Made of cast, spun, and lacquered aluminium composed of two elements, one hanging and one standing
385 x 60 x 60cm

A self-taught master of various materials and shapes of all kinds, Schmitt’s craftsmanship allows the two elegant lighting elements to be installed on an axis or completely offset. An unusual perspective in a room to combine floor and ceiling lights having a unique interaction exploring contrasting reflections and soft-light perceptions.

Jeonghwa Seo,
Korea



Jeonghwa Seo is a Korean designer whose practice is mostly based in furniture manufacture. Having studied at Hongik University in Korea before obtaining a master degree from the Design Academy Eindhoven, his pieces are imbued with elements of Eastern culture, as well as being influence by Western design history. His style is focused on the classical principles of design, such as form, structure and contrasting materiality which he explores through a fusion of observation, instinct and logic. An outlook which Seo currently is involved in teaching to students too.

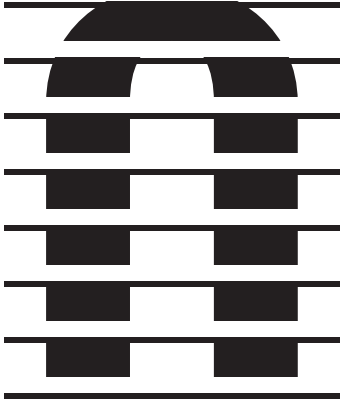
Untitled, 2018

Dimensions vary for each piece in the series
Brass, oxidised copper, cast aluminum, acrylic
and rosewood

Exposing an Asian eye for proportion and detail, Seo's stools and tables combine various tactilities and are made by different artisans, according to the material used.

The refined low furniture pieces demand attention to their materials—origin, process, technique, texture, value, contrast—all of it.

Niamh Barry,
Ireland



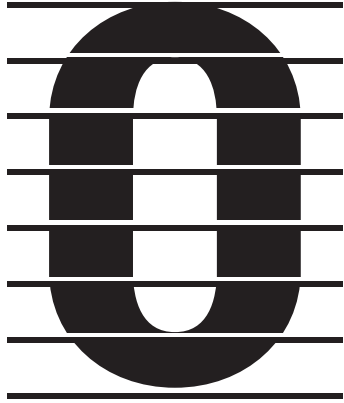
A native Dubliner, Niamh Barry graduated from the National College Of Art and Design, Ireland before swiftly establishing her studio practice. Barry creates unique light sculptures, predominantly made from bronze and LEDs. As one of only eight international artists selected to showcase innovative lighting designs at London's Luxcraft in 2011, Barry is recognised as an early adopter and innovator in the use of LED components—a technology which Barry metaphorically attributes as allowing her to draw with light and bronze.

Underneath, 2018

Unique
Bronze, Leds

With an undeniable link to poetry, Underneath is described as a study of the human form under the precarious impossibility of balancing the weight of life. The work is inspired by modular and human body volumes to create a unique space interaction.

Omer Arbel,
Canada



Based between Vancouver and Berlin, Omer Arbel cultivates a fluid position between the fields of architecture, sculpture, invention and design. With a background in environmental science and architecture, his work looks into intrinsic mechanical, physical, and chemical qualities of materials and the exploration of light as a medium. This practice informs all of Arbel's creative outlets, be it architecture, experimental sculpture or design. Omer is also the art director of Bocci and has established a design building practice under the name OAO. This project has been produced with the generous support of Bocci.

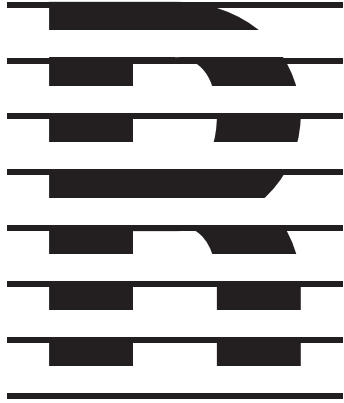
84.2 Copper Mesh Glass Vase, 2018

Blown and dipped glass, copper mesh

Dimensions vary for each piece in the series

A vessel is created by suspending a bubble of white glass within a fine copper mesh basket that is then plunged into hot clear glass. Air is blown into the matrix to gently push the white glass through the mesh, creating a delicate pillowed form that rests inside the thick outer layer of clear glass.

Roberto Sironi,
Italy



Roberto Sironi is an Italian designer, who graduated from the Politecnico di Milano in Industrial Design. Roberto considers each project as a story, developed through research that involves different aspects, from rituals and anthropological references to historical memory, designing with a contemporary approach always appropriate to the context. Each project is considered a journey, enriched by new discoveries made and people met along the way. His early work investigated Italian traditions and was critically acclaimed.

Ruins, 2018

Casted Bronze, Marmo Artificiale di Rima

Various works in glazed ceramic

Dimensions vary for each piece in the series

Sironi's ruins is a series of works conceived as contemporary ruins, freely deconstructed and reconstructed they are imaginary simulacra, programmed artifices where the materials and techniques do not correspond to the original but rather become functional to the post-archaeological message conveyed.

This project has been produced with the generous support of Fonderia Battaglia & Marmo Artificiale di Rima.

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