

Bloc Studios

Fatroll White Onyx by Odd Matter
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Photo by Ronni Campana

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Magnumphoto, texture studies for Triton maquillage, 2023



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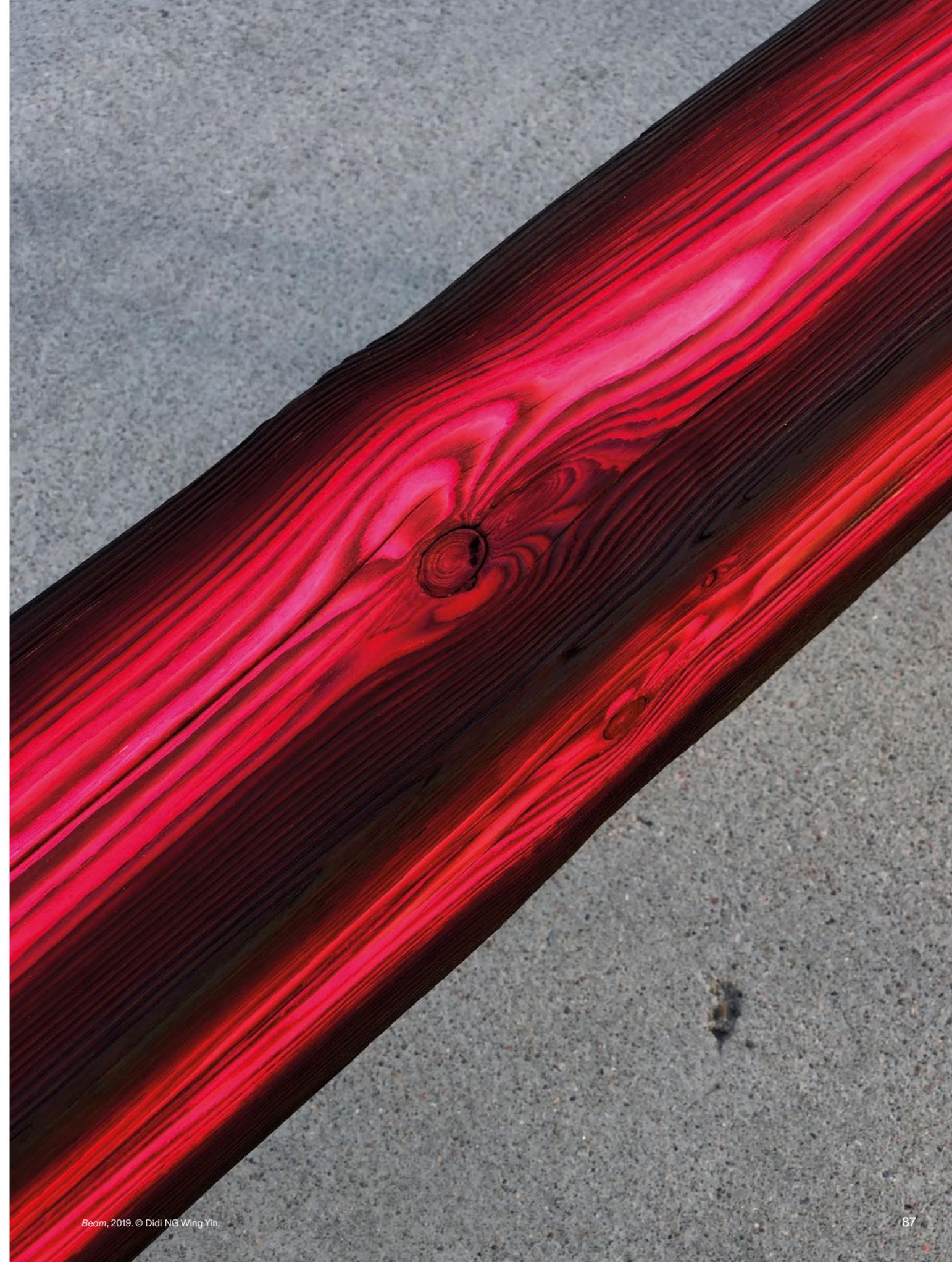
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FOCUS

Didi Ng
Wing Yin

Fragments of a lover's
discourse with wood

Text by
Jessica Finotto





Beam, 2019. © Didi NG Wing Yin.



Pleats Vase. No.6, 2022. © Didi NG Wing Yin.

Didi Ng Wing Yin escorts us into a Finnish understory, a sanctum of nature where temporality appears to be in abeyance. Amidst the primordial forms that rise from the earth like venerable sentinels, Didi unveils his profound union with wood, a substance of both regal and essential character.

His craft is an exquisite synthesis of Asian delicacy and Nordic robustness, breathing life with an almost primordial essence. Didi narrates a tale of meticulous gestures, presenting us with a sonogram of the wood's soul that discloses its tactile grace and inherent sophistication. His oeuvre beckons one to engage, perceive and forge a bond with the quintessence of the medium. Each masterpiece is a labyrinth of lines and arcs, an orchestration of organic silhouettes that articulate serenity, substance, and coziness.

In his grasp, the timber metamorphoses, enlivened with new vigor; he sculpts it with deference and ardor, bestowing upon it a configuration that serves both as a sanctuary and an ode to the terra firma that bore it. The spirit of China, the artist's motherland, occasionally reveals itself in subtle nuances, evoking a palpable yearning that seamlessly melds with the austere minimalism of Scandinavia, engendering a visual colloquy that is simultaneously dichotomous and complementary.

Now, let us pause for an interlude to delve into the analysis of some select pieces, which not only incarnate the aforementioned ethos but also extend an invitation to a tactile odyssey.



Hiabitare, 2023. © Didi NG Wing Yin.

Prior to being captivated by their contours and shades, it is imperative to attain a state of tranquil introspection. We must extricate ourselves from quotidian tumult and transient vexations to fully savor the sentiments and sensations these artistic expressions seek to evoke—a portal to a realm where design coalesces with sentiment, where each minutia is an artist’s pulse beckoning us to partake in a tacit discourse with the unadulterated allure of wood. Commence this succinct sojourn beneath the balmy glow of the “wood lamp”, which kindles within us the visage of a rice paper lantern, here reimagined as though sculpted by zephyrs. The luminaire seizes our gaze with its ethereal buoyancy, perched atop a slender, ebon shaft. Its shade, a deftly fashioned parallelepiped, permits delicate shavings to dance upon the breeze, interwoven and veneered with artisanal rice adhesive.

Relish the panorama as we repose, swayed by the sinuous cadence of the “wood ocean” stool. The experience is akin to embracing a nocturnal sea that, as a reflective canvas, ensnares and mirrors the aurora borealis’ iridescent tints. These vibrant hues are emblazoned against an abyssal noir backdrop, with inks that are both luminous and spirited. The surface, subjected to pyrography and brushing techniques, necessitates scrupulous modulation of tonal gradations, etching carbonized vestiges that narrate their own chronicle. Before us, the “beam” bench, with its immaculate lines and idiosyncratic form, swathes us in a luminescence evocative of molten magma.

Henge, 2023. © Didi NG Wing Yin.





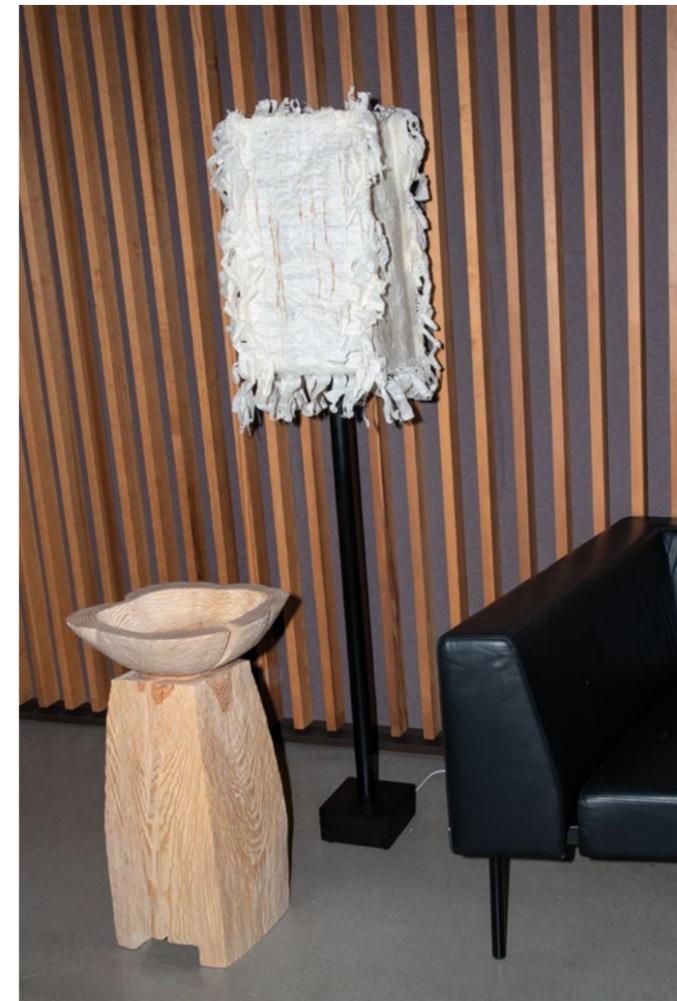
Monolith, 2023. © Didi NG Wing Yin.



Wood Ocean, 2023; fir wood, Indian ink. © Didi NG Wing Yin.



Volcano, 2023; spruce wood, Indian ink. © Didi NG Wing Yin.



Hiabitare, 2023. © Didi NG Wing Yin.

Forged through time-honored craftsmanship, this bench lays bare its intrinsic beauty in every facet.

Didi has masterfully manipulated the medium as if it were wrought by the very magma, still vibrant and simmering, ready to disseminate its radiant ardor across the entire edifice. As we advance, we immerse ourselves in the “feather branches”, their lamellar surfaces summoning the visage of a tree burgeoning forth. It is as if, upon close inspection, we could witness the miracle of growth, the genesis of new existences from their lamellae. Amidst us, like mute sentries, ascend the “pleats vase” collection. These vessels request one’s attention with their corrugated exteriors, reminiscent of an intricate archaeological excavation, unveiling the concealed annular growth rings of the tree.

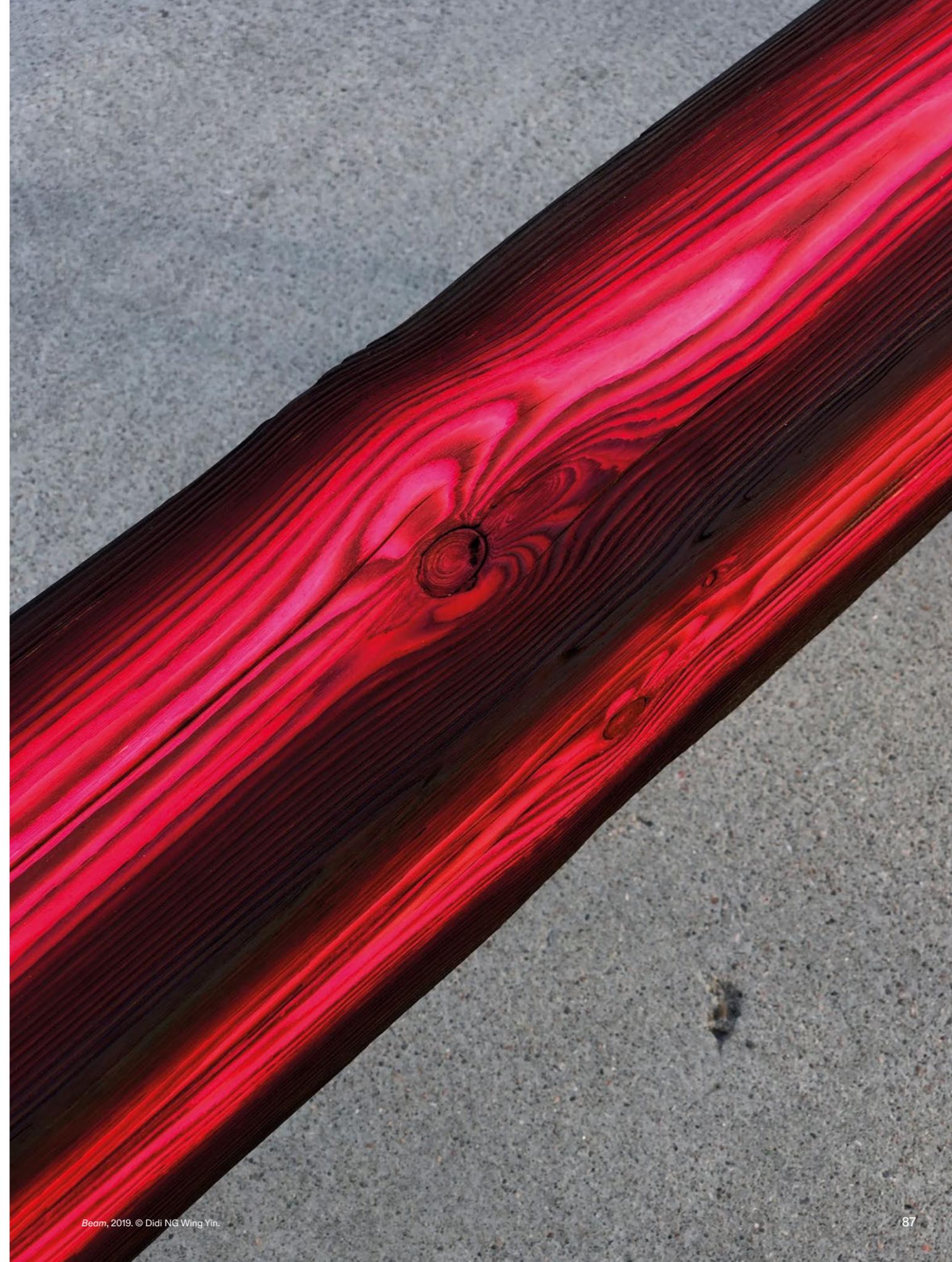
Echoing hollowed trunks, each vase’s bark-like surface is simultaneously organic and meticulously sculpted. Amidst the peaceful flora, “pleats vase no.7” distinguishes itself. Its purplish facade entices us with a warmth that is nearly tactile. Drawing closer, we are captivated by the vase’s form, spellbound by the slender wood veneer that enshrouds it, delineating its quintessence. In this artifact, Didi appears to have not merely shaped the wood but the very essence of an *iochroma cyaneum*. Ultimately, the “pleats” collection’s chair and side table beckon us, extending an invitation to sit and ponder the waning moments of this encounter. At the culmination of this passage, we are suffused with a profound emotional resonance, the yield of this artistic voyage.

FOCUS

Didi Ng
Wing Yin

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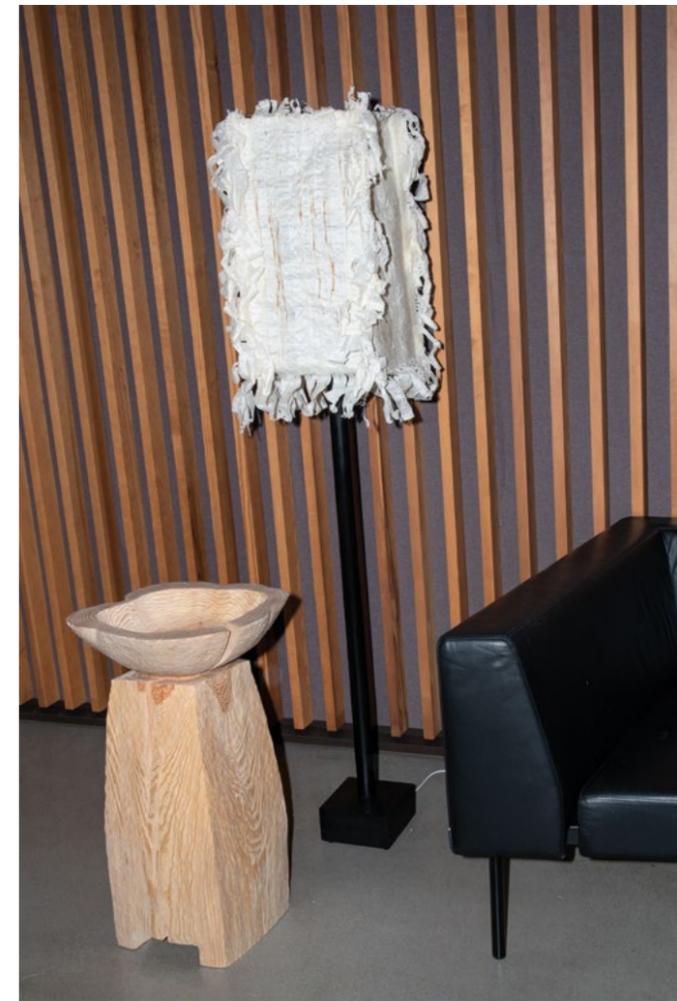
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