

TL Magazine (Belgium)
2020 - 2021 Autumn/Winter



*Intimité, rencontre et partage
/Intimacy, Meeting and Sharing*

Interview de /by Mechteld Jungerius

SPAZIO NOBILE

CONTEMPORARY APPLIED ARTS, DESIGN, PHOTOGRAPHY

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Spazio Nobile

Lucile Soufflet

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✦ Dialogue, reflection, and experiments are at the heart of Belgian designer Lucile Soufflet's artistic process. Soufflet, a teacher at the Ecole nationale supérieure des arts visuels of La Cambre, and a consultant for a number of architectural offices, recently designed a piece of bespoke outdoor furniture for Spazio Nobile Gallery – a metal circular bench which was installed in the back of the garden as part of the gallery's Plein Air Collection of outdoor furniture. TLMag spoke to her about her practice and drive.

TLMag: How would you describe your practice and the work that you produce?

Lucile Soufflet (LS): I like to work on projects which are related to the context in which they take place, meaning that the object relates to the environment or to the history and of course, its use. Even in the case of 'generic' projects, which are not developed for the evolving context, the idea of dialogue remains essential. In the end, the link between objects and surroundings is very important for me. To nurture, to develop, and to anchor work in a dimension that is external to me. I also attach great importance to the visual impact of the object, to its evocative capacity. It seems to me that a project that evokes nothing misses one of its missions, it is a soulless object.

TLMag: You work both on public space and domestic objects. Could you elaborate on how you approach these areas? Are they connected in some way?

L.S.: I appreciate many perspectives of public space, both social and spatial. However, the relational aspect is particularly interesting to me: the concept of community and how the individual works with within it, the question of private and public space, the concept of intimacy, meeting, sharing. I also enjoy the process of installing an object outdoors and how it works with its surroundings. The idea that this object will sustain for a longer period of time in this context really excites me.

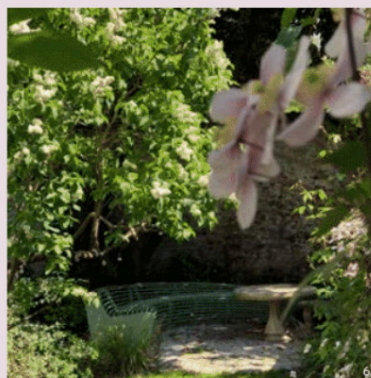
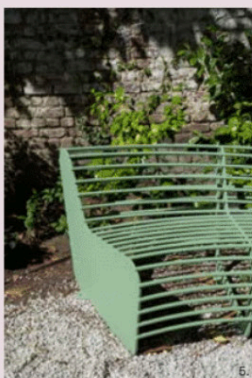
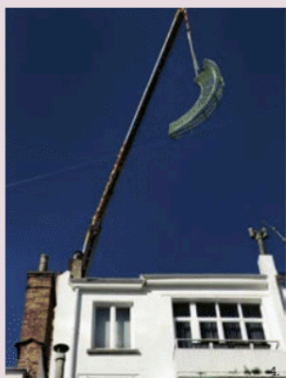


3 — Mobilier de pique-nique, Bruxelles /Picnic furniture, Brussels

4 — Installation du banc circulaire sur mesure /Installing the bespoke Circular Bench, Spazio Nobile Gallery

5 — Détail du Circular Bench sur mesure /Detail of the bespoke Circular Bench designed for Spazio Nobile Gallery

6 — Circular Bench sur mesure /Bespoke Circular Bench, Spazio Nobile Gallery



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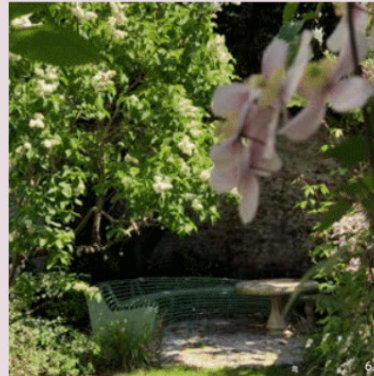
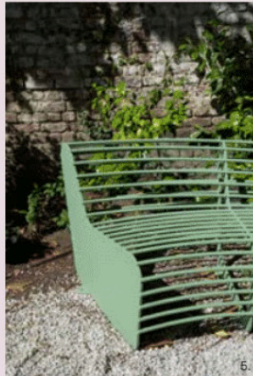
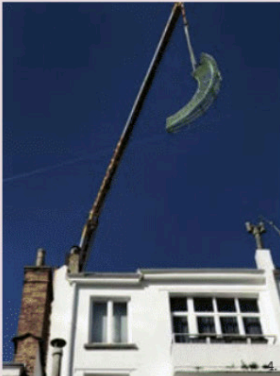


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7 — Soft bench, Spazio Nobile Gallery, edition TF Urban



8 — Circular Bench, Lyon, France, TF Urban

Unlike working for a brand in the design field, public work engages with a more diverse audience. Each project has its own questions, its magic, and its constraints and this is one of the beautiful facets of the profession. But the creative process remains the same.

TLmag: You recently designed a piece for Spazio Nobile. Take us through the process of designing and developing it.

L.S.: The gallery's back garden now houses a small curved stone bench and table, which created an old-fashioned charm to the place but whose general perception remained quite dark. When Spazio Nobile asked me to design something for the garden, I decided to work on this

space in dialogue with the existing 1920s table and bench. The circular metal bench, therefore, completes the curve of the stone furniture, creating a circle that is both intimate and friendly, whose light colour illuminates this forgotten part of the garden.

TLmag: What are some of the current projects you are working on?

L.S.: I am currently designing a range of cast iron furniture for which the first prototypes are in progress right now. It is a wonderfully exciting process. I am also working on the design of a grid for a park, which brings interesting questions about limits, borders, and perception. The link between what is inside and what is outside

is examined. There are a lot of questions that are central to the organization of public space such as creating a variety of uses for a limited space. <

lucile.be
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spazionobile.com
[@spazionobilegallery](https://www.instagram.com/spazionobilegallery)

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