

SPAZIO — NOBILE

Contemporary Applied Arts, Design & Photography

Spazio Nobile Gallery & Studiolo
Season XXV- *Interlude*, Group Exhibition
10.3 – 23.4.2023

Afterwork Aperero : Thursday 13th April, 18-21.00

Sunday Brunch on 23rd April, 12-16.00

Spazio Nobile presents Season XXV— *Interlude*, a Group Exhibition highlighting new contemporary applied art works from more than 20 artists and designers of the gallery crossing collectible experimental design with fine art. Unique and limited editions works are on display at Spazio Nobile Gallery and at Spazio Nobile Studiolo across the street of the main gallery located in a 1920s building close to Brugmann Square in Ixelles district.

Interlude evokes the image of an exhibition between two seasons, an entertaining and eclectic intermission in which Spazio Nobile celebrates 7 years of existence, while drawing creative strength from the multiple sources of contemporary applied arts and design, intertwined with fine art.

This exhibition features Jörg Bräuer, Florence Coenraets, Marie Corbin, Jesper Eriksson, Foyer Brisé, Ernst Gamperl, Garnier & Linker, Kaspar Hamacher, Amy Hilton, Katherine Huskie, Marialaura Irvine, Åsa Jungnelius, Pao Hui Kao, Liu Chien-Kuang, Isaac Monté, Fredrik Nielsen, Bela Silva, Piet Stockmans, Jacqueline Surdell, Kiki van Eijk, Vera Vermeersch, Fabian von Spreckelsen, Quentin Vuong & Philipp Weber.

Jörg Bräuer (DE) & Fabian von Spreckelsen (DE)

In continuity of Season XXIV- *Lithologie* and *Soul Memories*, Solo Shows at the gallery and Studiolo, *Capri Lithologie MMXXI*'s photographs and Limited Edition's Book as well as the wet plate collodions's triptych *Santorin* by Jörg Bräuer are placed in dialogue with *The Leather Cabinets* and *Ferron Crystallized Paintings* by Fabian von Spreckelsen.

Florence Coenraets (BE)

By mixing in ancestral techniques into her practice, Coenraets interweaves the sacred and the contemporary into singular *Feather Paintings* and *Ciel* installations made of 100% natural feathers gathered on a site-specific territory, such as *Ciel de Bruxelles* which is on display within the exhibition: a wall composition based on a collection of feathers from Brussels and Tervuren Parks.

Marie Corbin (FR)

The 6 new enameled-coated *Vase Calme* with 3rd fire gold 10% on Limoges porcelain were created by Marie Corbin for Spazio Nobile At Home, *Living Ikebanas*, past December. There are

dialoguing at the gallery with *The Shelves* in solid oak by Kaspar Hamacher. Their abstract “décor” can be seen as a tribute to the antique with a sense of drama and sophistication.

Jesper Eriksson (SE/FI)

Solid coal becomes a source of creation of precious design objects such as stools, lighting and a console with no harmful effects on the environment. Eriksson investigates coal establishing a new relation to it with the *Fossilized Collection*, as one to be cherished like a noble material.

Foyer Brisé (NL)

The creations by Foyer Brisé are delicate collages of personal and shared experiences as seen from the perspective of their creator. *Echo*, a limited edition for Spazio Nobile, is between remains of what they were (or refer to) and a dream of what they can become. They carry a mix of design and art, art history references and reflect the ongoing contemporary ceramic research and developments done at EKWC - an international artist-in-residence and centre of excellence for ceramics (Netherlands). *Sunday Morning* is a melancholic garland of worn-out porcelain lanterns resembling the day after a momentum. Each lantern, initially made from rice paper, requires a custom, time-consuming and delicate making process, resembling the creation of a couture garment. The downfall of the fragile objects is interwoven in the making process; destined for decline they become remains of their own creation.

Garnier & Linker (FR)

Diatomée Sculpture Vases in molten glass by Parisian duo Garnier & Linker are using the lost wax casting technique. In a collection of 20 crystal colors for Spazio Nobile, they appear like diatoms that are single-celled algae that live in houses made of glass. Inspired by these light-absorbing molecules which are the only organism on the planet with cell walls composed of transparent, opaline silica, they are ornamented by intricate and striking patterns of silica. On earth, diatoms are bringing us up to 50% of our oxygen and also feed the oceans, lakes and rivers.

Ernst Gamperl (DE)

Gamperl's turned wood sculptures, hollowed out to the thinnest skin of the tree, create an impression of a forest with unique essences, patinas and oxidations. His sculptures reveal the visible in the invisible, in reference to the Japanese culture of emptiness – “U-Tsu-Wa” – meaning vessel, emptiness, universe. This meditative installation unites East and West, across a universal culture of art. The eye discovers the cult of the divine in nature, in which the vessels become receptacles of the soul.

Kaspar Hamacher (BE)

Sculptor and designer of artistic furniture *Ausgebrannt*, *Inner Ausgebrannt*, *Max Chairs*, *Der Stein Black or Natural*, *The Shelves*, *The Burnt Chiseled Bench...*, Hamacher works with wood as a living material. His creations are the fruit of his energy and his imagination: while working with collected tree stumps, for him it is essential to respect authenticity at every step of the creative process. Monoxyle purity blooms from sylvan beauty.

Amy Hilton (UK)

The conjunction of ‘the parts and the whole’ is a concept that has accompanied the artist along her solo shows with the gallery since 2018: *Dreamstones*, *In-Between*, *Subtle Energy*. Hilton uses a variety of subjects and media such as ink on tracing paper, dry pastel, stone and cast glass to question the notions of totality and fragmentation, to try to open up being and phenomena, which far from existing only independently and distinctly, according to her, find their sense in their relationship to Nature. A Geology of Being takes shape.

Katherine Huskie (UK)

The *Echinus* and *Ostreum* Collections are coming from Huskie's love of manipulating hot glass and the tactile qualities of it. They are respectively inspired by sea urchin and mussel shells. Each handblown glass piece is unique and every piece of glass applied on the surface is squeezed individually. They all have their own visual tactility. Adding texture to blown forms is also present in the *Cassito* Collection in which Huskie has changed the perception of decorating a form by adding it to the inside of the vessel.

Marialaura Irvine (IT)

Launched at NOMAD Capri past July, this new tridimensional and textured rug collection, *Oplontis*, by Italian designer Marialaura Irvine for Spazio Nobile is Made in Sardinia and is inspired by the Antique floors comprised of colorful mosaics's compositions which were excavated in the Bay of Naples in the late 18th century (Pompeii, Herculaneum, Oplontis...). It revisits in a modern way the ancient pattern with the ability to evoke the past. Two local techniques "ranos" and "fiocco" which can be found in the central and eastern parts of Sardinia are for the first time combined together. This is a particular type of stitched relief, where the pattern is formed from the countless grains incorporated into the material.

Pao Hui Kao (TW)

Pao Hui Kao has created two collections for Spazio Nobile since 2020, in which she has experimented further with tracing paper, rice glue, Urushi lacquer paint and kintsugi. Her first Solo Show "25 Seasons" will be presented this upcoming Autumn 2023 at the gallery. *Paper Pleats Original & Urushi* and *Urushi Lacquer Leaf*, are two collections resulting from this long phase of experimentation to which rice glue and Urushi lacquer have also been added. Her artistic processes are both rudimentary and sophisticated, going back centuries. Finalist of the LOEWE Craft Prize 2022, Pao works with materials that have been used for a very long time, innovating within what exists and pushing the limits towards a more contemporary culture of the object.

Liu Chien-Kuang (TW)

Kuang challenges to create novel expressions of the glass itself as artist and glass blower. His *Stone from Other Mountain* recently exhibited at the Form Design Center in Malmö, Sweden, is now on display at Spazio Nobile. The selected 10 works made of glass in different colors are used to create illusions of semi-precious stones. This type of stones so called "Dreamstones", for example made of jade, have historically been very desirable objects. They were polished and placed on small stands to become contemplative objects. For each of them, Kuang has also designed a unique stand that was 3D printed instead of the traditional wooden stand. Two other works as well as one of the *Stone from Other Mountain* are also challenging the Murano *Filigrana* and *Reticello* glass techniques.

Åsa Jungnelius (SE)

Jungnelius' artistic practice entails a material exploration shifting between the monumental and the social and psychologically constructed settings. Through the physicality of the object such as *Implements*, *Queen Helmets* and her sculptural candle holders, she inquires how identities and bodily desires are formed and expressed. Her interest in body and matter is centered around issues concerning the constant re-negotiation of these two entities throughout human history. Åsa Jungnelius will have her duo show with Fredrik Nielsen at the gallery begin 2024.

Isaac Monté (NL)

Monté's *Crystal* series is the result of research into stalagmites, one of the greatest wonders of nature. The growing process of the objects can be seen as a metaphor for time. His *Crystallized* vessels are unique in shape, colour and texture, due to their organic development. They are the result of the natural crystallization of minerals and the influence of the designer on the formation

process which can take up to several weeks to obtain the perfect shape, colour combination and dimension of crystals.

Fredrik Nielsen (SE)

Using music as a driving force, Nielsen smoulders glass and metal together to create chaotic concoctions of his materials. Taking three different pieces of glass which are blown, cast, and then reheated several times over, the pieces are created like layers of paint, where each underlying surface affects the next. One piece includes cooked aluminium, a process called metallization where the metal is steamed inside a vacuum chamber. Nielsen exhibits at Spazio Nobile *'Month of May it's a violent Thing'* glass sculpture, which was showed in 2021 at Olle Nyman's Ateljéer in Stockholm, Sweden, together with sketches and drawings of Siri Derkert. The show was named *'Movements in all directions'*, eponym of Siri Derkert's first solo show at Moderna Museet in Stockholm. Fredrik Nielsen is finalist of the LOEWE Craft Prize 2022 and will have his duo show with Åsa Jungnelius at the gallery begin 2024.

Bela Silva (PT)

Bela Silva brings a contemporary Baroque aesthetic to her unique exuberant and narrative ceramic sculptures. Drawing on an eclectic range of influences from her travels, art history and archaeology, she adorns her vessels and creations with bold organic forms, bizarre animals or solidly robust interpretations of classical decorative motifs. Two new ceramic sculptures are on display at the gallery: *Sens-tu que je suis là? et Une bouche pleine de baisers*. With writhing plant-like forms, Silva has created a number of public art projects, notably her surreal and joyful murals for the Alvalade metro station in Lisbon and major exhibitions in her city of origin as well as in Paris and Brussels... She also creates vibrant works on paper and paintings such as *Bruxelas* ink on paper which highlights her endless line and inner fantasy world.

Piet Stockmans (BE)

Stockmans has view of the matter in his oval *Example of A Landscape* on view at the gallery. "He has conducted his whole career at the edge. Among his most recognizable compositions feature numerous porcelain vessels and imperfect fragments, the lips of each marked out in a wash of blue, so called "Stockmansblauw". Despite their outward serenity, these installations can also be understood as energy fields, welling up against their own limits. The individual variations of each painterly edge suggest a barely controlled tide, a brimming chaos beneath. Over the course of his six decades in the medium, Stockmans has pursued the collision between order and turbulence, strength and fragility, following that dialectical instinct wherever it leads him. In his hands, ceramic seems not so much a terrestrial art form as an oceanic or celestial one: a domain of infinite amplitude, containing forces beyond our reckoning." Extract by Glenn Adamson for *TLmag*, 2020.

Jacqueline Surdell (US)

Building her tridimensional tapestries as wall sculptures made of ropes and nylon demands full body action as the body becomes a weaving shuttle and the hand a brushstroke. Although her material is fibre, Surdell's approach is painterly. *Mist of Lavender* commissioned by the gallery is a pure expression of her interwoven landscapes. She manipulates her medium with knotted layers, reducing the material to open the structure, and draping to create volume and texture. Surdell combines the meticulous precision of craft with the unbridled spontaneity of contemporary painting. Her work embodies a tactile physicality, a suggestion of time and labour in its intricate process of creation. It offers structure, but one that is not easy to make sense of upon first glance. The U.S. artist draws upon her background as an athlete and painter to create large-scale textile pieces that twist and expand beyond the confines of the frame. Within these knots lie allusions to the subjects of each piece, left for the viewer to connect and unravel.

Kiki van Eijk (NL)

The designer departs from traditional textile techniques in her new *Textile Collage Sketch Tapestries*, introducing tufting for the first time aiming to be as faithful as possible to her original sketches, a series of spontaneous, intuitive crayons drawings on cardboard and paper. The textile collection is a mix media of wool, cotton, felt, linen, and leather. Developed and crafted in Kiki's atelier and the TextielLab in Tilburg (Netherlands), both tapestries shown at the gallery, *Rusty Sketch* and *Petrol Sketch*, are made based on a variety of materials from her personal archive of more than 20 years of work. Kiki creates a unique collage with where each element is meticulously stitched and colors are intentionally chosen. The gallery presents in parallel a selection of her *Wall Story Collection* of mirrors already revealed at Lempertz in 2021 and her new *Raku Vases Collection* exhibited earlier at Spazio Nobile At Home, *Living Ikebanas* end 2022. Spazio Nobile curates a Duo Show of Kiki van Eijk & Joost van Bleiswijk, *A Forest of Collision and Raku*, at Masterly, Palazzo Giureconsulti, during Milan Design Week (17-23.4.2023).

Vera Vermeersch (BE)

Vermeersch is a master at translating the virtuosity and poetry of the original design starting with sketches and watercolors into tapestries. Her lyrical and intimist tapestries *L'odore del sole*, *le voci lontane* and 'bozzetti', *Il gioco dell'ombra e del sole*, inaugurate a new body of hand tufted works, inspired by the light and shadows and rays of the sun that she observes and that appear in the landscape of the Piedmont Valley that surrounds her countryside house, *La Palude*. Her artistic approach always implies a critical, meticulous and layered reading, interpreting and re-interpreting of the given subject to sublimate it in a composition of which she holds the secrets, the color palette, the interweaving of threads and the genius of the material.

Quentin Vuong (FR)

Vuong's experimental quest between noble materials and artisanal techniques is always at the center of his creations. He creates delicate objects such as the *Mercure* mirrors. The fine resin lacquer surface of the *Mercure* mirrors is hand-gilded with caplain leaf (an alloy of platinum, palladium and gold). The quality of their delicately disturbed and curved reflection draws the eye into a mixture of images and luminous tones. A balance between the functionality of the object and its poetic dimension created by the light through time. The mirror is no longer a simple image of space, but a changing painting that evolves with it over time. Vuong has developed more recently *The Votive Stools* for Spazio Nobile. The gallery represents him since 2021 and will present his first Solo Show in 2024.

Philipp Weber (DE)

Weber anchors and translates his unhurried, discursive explorations into tangible concepts and functional forms. He pushes beyond the previously accepted limitations of age-old techniques and in turn, suggest ways in which to ensure their survival. It is no wonder that one of his chosen media tends to be glass. Spazio Nobile has developed with him *Filigree* lighting collection revisiting the aesthetic of the 16th century Venetian technique of the *Filigrana*. Parallel to this collection, *Sublimation* and *On Colours* hand blown glass creations as well as *the OI table* in handmade laminated glass are beautifying the gesture and choreography of glass art.

About the gallery

By opening Spazio Nobile in 2016 in the very lively and cosmopolitan neighbourhood of Place Brugmann in Brussels, art historians Lise Coirier and Gian Giuseppe Simeone have united their passions for design and art history, initiating an erudite dialogue between contemporary applied arts, design and photography. With no boundaries between disciplines, the visual arts interact with

the fine arts. Commissioning a collection of unique pieces, limited editions and installations both experimental and artistic, with a particular sensitivity to everything related to nature and minerality, each year the gallery organises five exhibitions and several events in art and heritage venues (Maison Louis Carré, Yvelines, France, arch. Alvar Aalto; Ancienne Nonciature, Grand Sablon; Lempertz (former galerie Leroy Frères), Brussels, etc). Spazio Nobile also takes part in Belgian and international fairs such as Art Brussels, Luxembourg Art Week, Art on Paper, Collectible Design Fair, PAD Paris and PAD London, Design Miami/Basel, NOMAD Capri/Saint Moritz, Unique Design Shanghai, etc. The gallery celebrates its 7th anniversary in 2023, and represents around 30 emerging and renowned artists and designers on an international scale, while promoting high-end craftsmanship and the cultures of East and West. Spazio Nobile also curates “TLmag_ True Living of Art & Design”, established by Lise Coirier in 2008; through this bi-annual art and design magazine, available in print and online, the gallery shares its selection and its artistic and cultural commitment to collectible art and design. Spazio Nobile has received the “Homo Faber” label of excellence, and continues exploring its “Glass is Tomorrow” international project. In 2020, Spazio Nobile Gallery opened Spazio Nobile Studiolo, a permanent exhibition space, across from the main gallery which is located at the ‘bel étage’ of a 1920s house.

Practical information

Spazio Nobile Gallery & Studiolo

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