

SPAZIO — NOBILE

Contemporary Applied Arts, Design & Photography

Press Release

Spazio Nobile Gallery and Studiolo

Season XXXV – Kiki van Eijk & Joost van Bleiswijk, Duo Show

A Complementary Grammar of Creation

Curated by Maria Cristina Didero

5.9.2025 – 16.11.2025

Opening: 4.9.2025, 18-21.00, in the presence of the artists and the curator

Sunday Brunch: 7.9.2025, 12-16.00

In the framework of Rendez-vous Brussels Art Week 4-7.9.2025

Kiki & Joost: A Complementary Grammar of Creation

A rare clarity arises when two distinct artistic voices evolve in sustained proximity and reciprocity, rather than in opposition. The work of Dutch designers Kiki van Eijk and Joost van Bleiswijk is the result of a long-term collaboration involving the sharing of ideas and gestures, and the act of creation itself. Over the course of two decades, they have cultivated a personal, complementary language based on intuitive drawing, architectural precision and a shared commitment to their studio as a space for open innovation. Kiki and Joost create worlds, not just objects, resisting the forces of speed, superficiality and mass production.

This exhibition, titled *Kiki & Joost: A Complementary Grammar of Creation* and showing at Spazio Nobile Gallery in Brussels, is like a conversation between two ingenious minds. The central pieces, which were conceived together, are the heart and result of that deep, ongoing, loving dialogue. This does not happen so often in our industry. For this exhibition, Kiki and Joost have worked together for the first time to create a cohesive piece: a four-panel room divider composed of hammered copper, cotton lace, vertical cotton roping, and a mirrored surface. This is an object that, while traditionally associated with separation, here becomes a marker of shared authorship and spatial intimacy. There's a subtle irony in the choice: perhaps only two designers so precisely in tune could choose to materialise their dialogue through an object meant to divide. Yet rather than creating distance, the piece proposes a threshold - inviting reflection, not only in the literal sense of the mirror, but in the way it embodies a synthesis of form languages, techniques, and material affinities. In this single gesture, the structural and the poetic, the precise and the intuitive, merge.

The exhibition, *Kiki & Joost: A Complementary Grammar of Creation*, is spread across two distinct spaces at Spazio Nobile Gallery, each offering a unique perspective on the artists' creative journey. The Main Gallery, with its pristine white walls and open, airy layout, showcases a curated selection of pieces that highlight pivotal moments in the artists' creative journeys. Although the gallery features only a few pieces, each one is significant, having been carefully chosen to represent a particular chapter in their story. Together, pieces from each of their past collections create a small

retrospective, offering a reflection on their past and a hint at their future. Kiki's Sprouts 01, with its delicate yet tactile design, channels the organic growth of nature and explores texture and form. Similarly, Structuring Chaos (Orange Tangle) plays with the tension between order and disorder as vibrant colours and intricately layered forms come together, suggesting a kind of controlled spontaneity that mirrors the artist's creative process. Joost's works, such as the desk that doubles as a sculpture in Beam Sketch, reveal his architectural sensibility. The raw metal surfaces, combined with the sheer scale and form of the desk, ground it in materiality and space. Meanwhile, Curved and Taped Red is a reimagining of functional design, expanding the limits of what a piece of furniture can convey with its bold exploration of form, material and colour. The use of tape as a design element imbues the piece with an experimental energy where structure and fluidity coexist.

Just across the street is a second intriguing little space called Spazio Nobile Studiolo, which offers a completely different atmosphere. Here, Kiki and Joost's works are displayed closely together, creating an immersive atmosphere. It is like a captivating, overcrowded parade. The proximity of the objects, combined with bold colours and large writing on the walls and in the display case, reflects the intensity and passion with which the designers approach their craft. Spazio Nobile Studiolo reveals a raw, experimental side to their creative process, showcasing the constant exchange and distinct creative direction between Kiki and Joost as they evolve together.

Kiki & Joost: A Complementary Grammar of Creation is defined by two contrasting environments: the sleek, curated presentation in the Main Gallery and the dynamic, jam packed space of Spazio Nobile Studiolo. Both projects offer a glimpse into the designers' approach to the world around them, revealing how their personal lives and creative processes coexist, constantly interplay and occasionally intertwine while remaining distinct.

Maria Cristina Didero
Milan, May 2025

About the Curator

Maria Cristina Didero is an independent design curator and author who is based in Milan and works internationally. She has collaborated with various magazines, including Domus, Vogue Italia and Icon Design, and served as Milan Editor for Wallpaper*. She has presented exhibitions at a number of international institutions and worked at the Vitra Design Museum for 14 years. Her most recent projects include "The System of Objects" at the Deste Foundation in Athens, "Nendo: The Space in Between" at the Holon Design Museum in Tel Aviv; "FUN HOUSE by Snarkitecture" at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.; and "Vegan Design – or the Art of Reduction" by Erez Nevi Pana. In 2021, she was part of the Supersalone curatorial team. In 2022, she was appointed Curatorial Director of the Design Miami fair and presented "Ask Me if I Believe in the Future" at the MK&G in Hamburg. In 2023, she co-curated "Droog30" with Richard Hutten at the Triennale Milano and the Het Nieuwe Instituut in Rotterdam. In 2024, she curated "A Future for the Past" at the Benaki Museum in Athens, as well as "Craft x Tech" at the Kudan House in Tokyo and the V&A in London. She is frequently invited to participate in panels and talks and has served on juries for Frame, Design Anthology, Dezeen, and the Compasso d'Oro Award in celebration of its 70th anniversary in 2024.

Biography About the Artists

Kiki van Eijk

Kiki van Eijk grew up in the Netherlands where she spent her youth immersed in nature day dreaming and drawing. She is now one of the most accomplished names in the world of Dutch design. Her interest in product design developed at the Design Academy Eindhoven where she met her future partner, designer Joost van Bleiswijk. Her wide range of work extends from installations to furniture, from lighting to textiles, ceramics or glassware. Her independent sculptural work has been presented in museums, galleries and fairs worldwide, including Basel, London, Paris, Milan, New York, Tokyo and Rome. Inspired by the smallest details of the everyday and by the forms of nature, Kiki's world is whimsical and colorful, lyrical and personal, yet refined by a rigorous attention to the process and skillful craftsmanship. Regardless of the scale of the work, the handmade and human touch remains at the heart of her practice and reinforces an intuitive and forward-thinking approach to design in the 21st century. Her collaborations include brands as Hermès, Google, Saint- Louis, Cor Unum Bisazza, Häagen-Dazs, Serax, Bernhardt Design and Nodus. In recent years she has collaborated with companies and institutions like Coachella, Studio Edelkoort Paris, Audax Textile Museum, Zuiderzee Museum, Noord Brabants Museum, Design Academy Eindhoven, Venice Projects, Rijksmuseum, Centraal Museum Utrecht, Textielmuseum Tilburg and private collectors. After her solo show *The New Harvest* in 2021 at Lempertz in Brussels, Kiki van Eijk & Joost van Bleiswijk's first Duo Show, *Serendipity*, took place at the gallery in Spring 2022 followed by *A Forest of Collision* and *Raku at Masterly*, Milan, in April 2023. These exhibitions are followed by a third Duo Show of Kiki & Joost, *A Complementary Grammar of Creation*, taking place from 5 September to 16 November 2025 at the gallery, curated by Maria Cristina Didero. Kiki van Eijk is represented by Spazio Nobile since 2021.

Joost van Bleiswijk

Joost van Bleiswijk is a designer, artist and teacher who gives great value to the process of making. He grew up in Delft, and studied at the Design Academy of Eindhoven, where he met his future partner, Kiki van Eijk and founded the studio in 2001 to become one of the most accomplished names of Dutch design. Today he runs Studio Thinking Hands, one of the core studios within Design Academy Eindhoven's BA program. A genuine fascination for the construction of the object often revealed in the outcome is the starting point of his creative process. The workshop is where Joost engages with the experience of designing as an intensely physical act. The creative process unfolds in a quite instinctive and gestural way. Its wide range of work extends from fine furniture to large scale installation, from architecture to accessories, from lighting to ceramics. His work often references iconic designs such as family clocks, cupboards, high-backed chairs and chess sets; bringing these designs into a contemporary setting has marked Joost's work throughout his career. From his early famous *No Glue No Screw* collection, to the Mechanic and Protopunk series, Joost has always used bold shapes and strong lines to create designs striving for audacious creativity. His international collaborations include brands like Moooi, Bernhardt Design, Nodus and Omnidacor among a series of private collectors, companies, and institutions such as The Rijksmuseum, Centraal Museum Utrecht, Design Academy Eindhoven, Zuiderzee Museum, Noord Brabants Museum and the North Sea Jazz festival. He has exhibited in private galleries and museums around the world but it is his workshop with the sound of making and building that gives

him the real thrill. Kiki van Eijk & Joost van Bleiswijk's first Duo Show, *Serendipity* took place at the gallery in Spring 2022 followed by *A Forest of Collision and Raku* at Masterly, Milan, in April 2023. These exhibitions are followed by a third Duo Show of Kiki & Joost, *A Complementary Grammar of Creation*, taking place from 5 September to 16 November 2025 at the gallery, curated by Maria Cristina Didero.

About the Artist Book

The duo exhibition which takes place at Spazio Nobile Gallery in Brussels (5 Sept–16 Nov 2025) is accompanied by the publication of a comprehensive Artist Book which traces over two decades of creative collaboration between Dutch designers Kiki van Eijk and Joost van Bleiswijk. It draws from their first two duo exhibitions with the gallery (*Serendipity* and *A Forest of Collision & Raku*), studio documentation, and new in-situ works. Featuring essays by curator Maria Cristina Didero and gallerist, publisher and art historian Lise Coirier, the monograph explores the designers' shared world through the lenses of materiality, process, and emotional form. Designed and published by *Spazio Nobile Editions*, it acts as both a reflective object and an extension of the exhibition experience. Blurring the lines between living and working, making and being, the publication brings to life the poetic, collaborative rhythm that defines Kiki & Joost's practice. It mirrors the project's central themes: duality, coexistence, and the permeability of boundaries. Dialogue goes beyond hierarchy, process over perfection, making it an organic fit that is about shared worlds and inner landscapes. By creating an immersive experience that dissolves boundaries between living, working, and exhibiting, this monograph documents and deepens the narrative of Kiki & Joost's creative journey.

Guest Curator: Maria Cristina Didero

Photographer: Studio Mass

Graphic designer: Antoine Jovenet

Published by Spazio Nobile Editions



About the Gallery

Spazio Nobile is a contemporary art and design gallery based in Brussels, Belgium, known for its bold exhibitions and commitment to promoting innovative, boundary-pushing work. The gallery presents a range of emerging and established artists and designers from around the world, providing a platform for experimental practices and new creative directions in both fine art and collectable design. When art historians Lise Coirier and Gian Giuseppe Simeone founded Spazio Nobile in 2016, they combined their passions for design and art history to establish a fruitful dialogue with applied art, design and photography. Without boundaries between disciplines, they have created a collection of unique art and design pieces, limited editions and installations, with a particular sensitivity to nature and minerality.

The gallery also publishes *TLmag True Living of Art & Design*, launched in 2008, an annual international print and online magazine dedicated to curating and capturing the culture of collecting. TLmag has evolved over 15 years with creative influencers, collectors, curators, artists, designers and architects who have shaped the contemporary art and design scene. The magazine and artist monographs are published by *Spazio Nobile Editions*. *Spazio Nobile Studiolo*, a permanent showcase in front of the main gallery, has been curated by the gallery since 2020.

The co-founders have also extended the gallery experience to their private villa in Tervuren, on the outskirts of Brussels, with *Spazio Nobile At Home*, and in Sweden, at *The 25 Columns*, built by OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen, overlooking Lake Siljan from the heights of Plintsberg, Dalarna.

Practical Information

Spazio Nobile Gallery & Studiolo
Contemporary Applied Arts, Design & Photography

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Ma-Sa / Di-Za / Tue-Sat 11.00-18.00
& sur rendez vous / op afspraak / by appointment

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Portraits



Joost van Bleiswijk and Kiki van Eijk, © Studio Mass, Courtesy of the Artists & Spazio Nobile



Maria Cristina Didero, © Delfino Sisto Legnani

Sélection des Œuvres Exposées



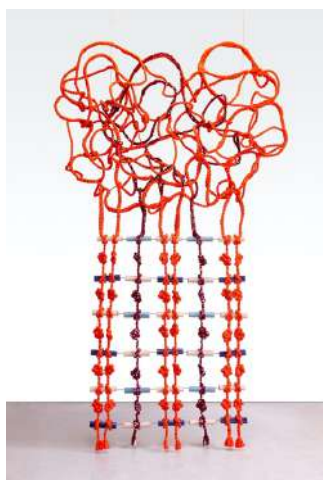
Kiki van Eijk, *Very Large Raku Yellow Vase #4*, 2024, Courtesy of the Artists & Spazio Nobile



Kiki van Eijk, *Civilized Primitives*, 2016, Courtesy of the Artists & Spazio Nobile



Kiki van Eijk, *Ceramic Wall Story*, 2024, Courtesy of the Artists & Spazio Nobile



Kiki van Eijk, *Structuring Chaos*, 2023, Courtesy of the Artists & Spazio Nobile



Kiki van Eijk, *Sprout 01*, 2024, Courtesy of the Artists & Spazio Nobile



Kiki van Eijk, *Cut & Paste Cabinet Cart*, 2010, Courtesy of the Artists & Spazio Nobile



Kiki van Eijk, *Textile Collage Sketch*, 2022, Courtesy of the Artists & Spazio Nobile



Kiki van Eijk, *Garden Rush*, 2022, Courtesy of the Artists & Spazio Nobile



Kiki van Eijk, *KOTS 23*, 2023, Courtesy of the Artists & Spazio Nobile



Joost van Bleiswijk, *Curved and Taped*, 2019, Courtesy of the Artists & Spazio Nobile



Joost van Bleiswijk, *Collision*, 2022, Courtesy of the Artists & Spazio Nobile



Joost van Bleiswijk, *Beam Sketch Desk*, 2023, Courtesy of the Artists & Spazio Nobile



Joost van Bleiswijk, *One Sheet Console*, 2024, Courtesy of the Artists & Spazio Nobile



Joost van Bleiswijk, *One Sheet Table Lamp Blue*, 2024, Courtesy of the Artists & Spazio Nobile



Joost van Bleiswijk, *Tinkered*, 2024, Courtesy of the Artists & Spazio Nobile



Joost van Bleiswijk, *Interlocking Planter M*, 2022, Courtesy of the Artists & Spazio Nobile



Joost van Bleiswijk, *Brass bar M*, 2023, Courtesy of the Artists & Spazio Nobile



Joost van Bleiswijk, *Brass bar L*, 2022, Courtesy of the Artists & Spazio Nobile