

SPAZIO — NOBILE

PRESS RELEASE

II/2016

Silver Edition, Spazio Nobile's new themed exhibition, explores silver, silvery shades and silver plating in all their creative facets



SPAZIO NOBILE
by Pro Materia Gallery
Contemporary Applied Arts,
Design & Photography

Rue Franz Merjay 142
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Silver Edition

From 25 November 2016 to 19 February 2017

Spazio Nobile has chosen the festive season to showcase a selection of designers exploring the theme of silver-plated glass, reflections and iridescence. The result is a rich dialogue between contemporary applied arts, design and photography: silver, silverware, silver coating, silver plating, metallic effects, iridescence, mirror and optical effects, interactions of shadow and light, and more.

Compiled by Lise Coirier and Gian Giuseppe Simeone, this unique and completely subjective collection brings together some of the gallery's emblematic pieces and editions, as well as the work of Silvano Magnone, a Brussels-based Italian photographer who transports us "beyond time".

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The silvery perspective of photographer Silvano Magnone

The photographer Silvano Magnone's 'handmade' prints are one-offs and limited editions. His approach involves patience, time and work in the dark room using "positive" glass slides (transparency) obtained through different processes, mainly gelatine on glass and wet collodion, as well as lith prints and Polaroids, and incorporating photo-sensitive iron salts such as cyanotype or platinum printing. Each piece is framed under anti-reflective glass, similar to museum exhibits, to allow the individual works to be admired up close in their original format while appealing to our aesthetic eye.

Silvano Magnone uses the medium of photography and his "handmade" prints, created using traditional processes dating back to the 19th century, to take us on a journey through time while remaining very close to the target identity: authenticity, one-off and collection prints, technical experimentation, artistic photography that also transgresses the techniques of the day, adding personal touches and purely fictional scenarios to fuel our imagination.

Silver in all forms of applied arts

Twenty-five works by Belgian and international designers – one-off pieces and limited editions – will be exhibited in the Spazio Nobile gallery:

*Alain Gilles for Verreum Hélène Dashorst for Limited Edition, Nathalie Dewez from ND Studio, Sylvain Willenz for Retegui, Katia de Witte from ztec2/Limited Edition, Nedda El-Asmar from Studio Nedda for Maison Vervloet, Xavier Lust for Driad, Hubert Verstraeten for Niessing,

*a selection of 6 Christmas balls by Yann Grienberger from the Centre International d'Art Verrier: Nocc Studio, Mendel Heit, Thibaut Allgayer, Studio Monsieur, V8 Designers, Philippe Riesling and also Jasper Morrison;

*Sebastian Herkner for Pulpo; Hilaria Innocenti & Giorgio Laboratore for Portego, Friederike Delius from Studio Berg, Niclas Jørgensen, Patricia Urquiola for Flos, Adrien Rovero, Oskar Zieta from Zieta Prozessdesign, Jessica Signell Knutsson, Palomba Serafini Associati for Kartell by Laufen, Tomas Kral, Alfredo Häberli for Georg Jensen, Christian Wassmann, Monica Förster for Skultuna, Glenn Sestig in collaboration with Van Den Weghe and Lasvit, Poetic Lab for Lobmeyr, Lucie Koldová for Brokis.

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Among the twenty-five Belgian and international works presented on the upper ground floor at Spazio Nobile, here are a few anecdotes about the designers and creations interpreting Silver in all forms of applied arts:

*Fascinated by beauty, the Golden Ratio and geometry, the New York-based Swiss architect **Christian Wassmann** (CH) has designed, especially for Spazio Nobile, a unique piece from his 'Dodecahedron' suspension – a twelve-sided polyhedron – including a silver cup to intensify reflected light and create optical effects. Part of his 'Platonic Objects' collection, initially developed with his New York gallery R20thCentury, this polygon transposes his architectural approach to a light fitting. He invites everyone to form their own personal perception and experience of this 'existential' object which changes shape depending on the angle from which it is viewed.

*Once again in the field of lighting, the Berlin-based Danish designer **Niclas Jørgensen** (DK-D), who trained with designer Michael Anastassades (made famous by Flos), has designed a 'Stadium Light' in satin-finished, mirror-polished stainless steel, in an 8+2 limited edition. Its twelve mouthblown opaline glass spheres incorporate an LED light to which a dimmer can be added to create an atmosphere that is both warm and spectacular.

*One of Spazio Nobile's leading designers, Belgian **Nathalie Dewez** (BE), features in this Silver Edition with her 'La Balance' balancing lamp, an effect achieved through the gentle balance of its counterweight. This positionable lamp is chrome-plated and produced in a limited edition.

*The Taiwanese studio **Poetic Lab** (TW) transports us to a dreamlike world with the 'Ripple Light', produced in a limited series by **Lobmeyr** (AU), famous since the age of the Wiener Werkstätte. Two blown-glass domes of different thicknesses come together to create a magical and slightly illuminating composition. The magnetic field creates the slow movement of the largest dome which produces haloes of light. The base of the two lights is made from brushed silver-plated metal.

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***Lucie Koldová** (CZ) is passionate about glass, inspired by its origins and her work as artistic director for the Czech brand **Brokis**. She took part in her first "Glass is Tomorrow" workshop with Iittala in Finland in September 2011, where she discovered an infinite spectrum of possibilities. 'The Whistles', her new pendant lamps, are made from mould-blown glass combined with a silver-plated metal cup to intensify diffracted light and create a more 'glamorous' effect.

*Antwerp-based **Studio Nedda** (BE)/Nedda El-Asmar already has a long track record designing cutlery and objects for Hermès, Puiforcat, Robbe & Berking and Gense. Here, Studio Nedda has applied all its metal-crafting skills to reinterpret the classic door handle. This limited series of 'Torna' handles made from silver-plated metal with a matt, shiny or textured finish is produced by Brussels-based **Maison Vervloet**. Vervloet works with Spazio Nobile to design exclusive 'custom' pieces. The gallery has a permanent exhibition of 'Torna' in matt brass and shagreen, and of 'Pebble', a beach pebble made from brushed brass.

*Stockholm-based **Jessica Signell Knuttsson** (SE) has designed a series of stands or small pedestals for books made from marble, wood and other materials. One example is exhibited at Spazio Nobile, made from mirror-polished stainless steel, produced in an edition of 5.

*The Polish designer **Oskar Zięta** (PL) has been one of our close partners for years, for our Nasza Polska exhibitions (Paris-Brussels) and for TLMag magazine's fifth anniversary celebrations. He inflates metal in the same way that he breathes, seeking to explore technology and new processes to lighten the material and save resources. From its studio and production facility near Wrocław in Poland, **Zięta Prozesdesign** continues to fascinate us. The 'Plopp Stool' is undoubtedly the most iconic representation of the invention of FIDU, which involves inflating two very thin sheets of stainless steel to make the metal as light as possible.

***Frederike Delius** (D) from Berlin-based **Studio Berg** has designed an 8+2 'Silver' edition for Spazio Nobile. 'Foldwork' is a drying rack or coat rack made from matt brushed stainless steel. This spatial sculptural object can be displayed on a wall, open or closed, like a polyptych.

*The young Italian duo of **Ilaria Innocenti and Giorgio Laboratore** (IT) has joined forces with **Portego** – a producer seeking to promote expertise from the Veneto region – to explore the imagery of the Venetian fan. 'Self Portrait' and 'Mini Portrait' are little everyday objects, jewellery boxes and

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portable mirrors created through a craft design process: with natural or water-painted cherry wood, galvanised, brushed steel and metallic finishes.

***Laufen** (CH), a Swiss leader in the sanitary sector, is exhibiting a prototype of its still experimental SaphirKeramik ultra-thin ceramic basin, designed by **Palomba Serafini** (IT). Its platinum-coloured enamel is still in the study phase in the hope of one day adding this piece to the Kartell by Laufen collection.

*Belgian partner brand **Limited Edition**, specialising in the design and production of top-of-the-range carpets, is exhibiting a limited series design by **Hélène Dashorst** (NL), which can be made to measure. Made by hand according to a traditional technique, the polypropylene 'Looping' carpet is suitable for indoor or outdoor use. In the silver range, its structure creates a sensory and visually striking effect.

*A neighbour of the **Limited Edition** group and another Spazio Nobile partner, **2tec2** offers a very extensive range of woven vinyl flooring available in custom sizes. This 'Silver Lining' flooring has been designed specially for Dior and combines iridescent silvery threads with a haute couture look.

*Another example of his organically shaped designs, **Xavier Lust's** (BE) 'Cruiser' champagne cooler for **Driade** (IT) is taking to the oceans like a cruise ship or an ice-breaker. Its flowing outlines ripple over the silvery waves of the mirror-polished metal.

***Monica Förster** (SE) has joined forces with the Swedish heritage metalcraft producer **Skultuna** (1607) to reinterpret the flower pot, giving this classic item a radical new twist. The shape is created from polished metal, in this case silver-plated. 'Flower Pot' is also available in copper and brass, either matt or mirror-polished.

***Patricia Urquiola** (IT) has just designed the interior of the very beautiful 'Il Sereno' hotel on the banks of Lake Como. Her 'Serena' prototype table lamp for the Italian brand **Flos** reflects this quest for serenity. It consists of a diffuser and an oval-shaped mirror-polished aluminium sheet which reflects the light to create an indirect illumination effect.

*The Swiss-based Argentinian designer **Alfredo Häberli** (CH) plays with the world of shapes like an Enzo Mari jigsaw puzzle or an illustrated children's book by Bruno Munari. Conveying all the elegance of the eponymous bird, his 'Peacock Pitcher' is produced by **Georg Jensen** (DK),

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an iconic Scandinavian brand in both crafted metalwork and modern and contemporary jewellery.

*The Lausanne-based Slovakian designer **Tomas Kral** (CH) has designed a little crafted metal gem for Spazio Nobile. His silver-plated 'Candle Holder' reflects the light of the flame under its roof structure.

*The Belgian designer **Hubert Verstraeten** (BE) has made his name with his Tamawa brand. Crafted from silver wire, his 'Labyrinth' ring and pendants represent a new take on the design he created twenty years ago for **Niessing** (D).

*The Swiss designer **Adrien Rovero** (CH), already exhibited in art and design galleries around the world including the Kreo gallery in Paris, has designed a 6+2 edition of pivoting mirrors for Spazio Nobile, based on a dual-sided mirror effect on a Corian stand. The versatile, smooth and high-design 'Layered Mirror' is made from a series of Corian layers on top of which two mirrors have been placed back to back, adding a fresh and contemporary touch to an object that is somewhere between a collection piece and a traditional mirror.

*The Belgian designer **Sylvain Willenz** (BE) is already featured in other galleries, including Victor Hunt in Brussels. At Spazio Nobile, he is presenting his 'Alaka' collection of mirrors, combining the delicate lines of a bevelled mirror with white Carrara marble. Produced by the design and marble manufacturer **Retegui** (FR), these mirrors convey their own classic and timeless shapes.

*Designed by the Ghent-based architect and designer **Glenn Sestig** (BE), the 'Pleasure Dome Supernova' has been developed with Spazio Nobile in collaboration with **Lasvit** (CZ), retaining its travertine base and polished brown marble heart created by the Belgian premium natural stone craft specialist, **Van Den Weghe**. The combination of stone and shimmering glass give this one-off work more soul, mystery and holistic dimension than the transparent glass dome.

*For Spazio Nobile, the **ClAV** (Centre International de l'Art Verrier) in Meisenthal (FR) – partner of our "Glass is Tomorrow" project and a real living laboratory of contemporary glass – has selected six Christmas balls that are establishing a global reputation, plus one, each created by talented designers, including **Jasper Morrison**, 'Triplette' ball (GB)/'Mix' ball, Design **Nocc Studio** (FR)/'Cumulus' ball, Design **Mendel Heit**

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(D)/‘Vroum’ ball, Design **Thibaut Allgayer** (FR)/‘Silex’ ball, Design **Studio Monsieur** (FR)/‘Helium’ ball, Design **V8 Designers** (FR)/‘Tilt’ ball, Design **Philippe Riehling** (FR). Presented in a setting created especially for the occasion, these six balls are available in a limited edition of 50 pieces. The ‘Mix’ ball by NOCC studio has been silver-plated to experiment with new finishes going beyond free-blowing, transparent or coloured glass. The Meisenthal Christmas balls are mouthblown at the CIAV - the Centre International d’Art Verrier in the Northern Vosges region of France.

*At our “Glass is Tomorrow” (GIT) workshop at the CIAV in Meisenthal in July 2012, **Sebastian Herkner** designed the prototypes for his ‘Containers’ in coloured and shimmering moulded glass. Following on from this workshop, Herkner had these Containers produced by the German design brand **Pulpo**, which has since had them blown in cased and silver-plated glass in the Czech Republic by **Verreum**, who was our local partner for the GIT project (Novy Bor). The silver-plated coloured cased glass elements can be combined in infinite variations, but Herkner shows a particular penchant for silver together with bold shades of pink, orange-red or more classic and neutral tones. His design is available in three sizes: High Container, Low Container, Container – coffee table.

*It was in Novy Bor that one of our “Glass is Tomorrow” workshops on silver-plated glass was held in February 2012 in partnership with **Verreum**. The gallery’s partner brand **Lasvit** also has its crystal-blowing production site near there, in Ajeto, previously the studio of the famous artist and designer, the late Borek Sipek. To create a link with Verreum, Spazio Nobile is exhibiting an emblematic work by the Belgian designer **Alain Gilles**. Entitled the ‘Chubby Stool’, its combination of silver-coloured cased glass and Nya Nordiska fabric creates a very captivating defect. A real style masterpiece!

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SILVERAGENDA

*Preview: Thursday 24 November 2016, from 6 pm to 10 pm

*Drinks: Saturday Sparkling Spritz,
Saturday 26 November 2016, from 4 pm to 7 pm

*Saint-Nicolas brunch,
Sunday 4 December 2016, from 11 am to 4 pm

*Press conference: Thursday 15 December 2016, 11.30 am

* Brunch around the Christmas tree Meisenthal,
Sunday 18 December, from 11 am to 4 pm

The preview and events will be attended by some designers and the photographer.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Spazio Nobile by Pro Materia Gallery, Contemporary Applied Arts,
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Link to Design Photos:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uhooupq35uyal2m/AAAGmti_R2Cz1CoCGCurTnNda?dl=0

Link to Silvano Magnone's photos

[dhttps://www.dropbox.com/sh/lfsjoslfdsqvhn/AADsEON-CPZpMSohmLeWyIxya?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lfsjoslfdsqvhn/AADsEON-CPZpMSohmLeWyIxya?dl=0)

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