

SPAZIO — NOBILE

Press release

Brussels, September 2016.

Spazio Nobile, the gallery for applied art, design and photography opens its Season II exhibition

Jörg Bräuer, Nathalie Dewez & Kaspar Hamacher : light, nature and time

For its second exhibition, Spazio Nobile gallery welcomes a trio of designers and photographer proposing an intimate and subtle, yet dynamic, exchange between photography, mixed media, lighting and furniture.

Juxtaposing hauntingly ethereal landscapes captured by German photographer Jörg Bräuer with celebrated Brussels-based powerhouse Nathalie Dewez's primal chandeliers and young Belgian talent Kaspar Hamacher's fired-formed wooden furniture the new exhibition employs the domestic space of Spazio Nobile for a speculative and sensual dialogue between different universes.

Whether expressed in a bench, lamp, or image, nature's true force comes through the transformation of materials, minimalistic forms, textured obscurity and noble materials. Light and time are the indivisible corollaries of these creations combining minerality, water, ice, fire, metal, wood and glass.

Born in Germany in 1966, **Jörg Bräuer** has built up his aesthetic universe along an atypical international professional path. After working in a classic print shop in Munich, he moved to New York to continue university at the Fashion Institute of Technology, before being hired as a graphic designer at the world-renowned design studio Pentagram. In 1996 upon his return to Europe he settles in London and works as an art director and photographer for prestigious brands and companies. Two years later he opens a new studio in Barcelona, dedicated to brand design and photography. It is from 2007 that he devotes himself completely to photography. Retiring in a remote house in the island of Mallorca, he spends two years taking pictures of the landscapes and the sea. A book, "Mallorca, the nature of things" and a series of photographs – some of which are exhibited at Spazio Nobile – are the result of this full communion with the place and the sublimation of its minerality. Based from 2009 in Brussels, he pursues his technical and aesthetic quest, focusing on architecture, landscape and still life photography with a pictorial quality that exposes finer details with great depth and contrast, revealing the restrained beauty that inhabits the unknown and magical world around us. This approach is illustrated by his last series, a selection of which is exposed at Spazio Nobile: in "The Edge of Silence", the chromatic variety and graphic purity of the impressive falaises in Normandy border on abstraction. With "Conversations in Silence", Jörg Bräuer renders his subtle and understated dialogue with the gardens, the trees and the sculptures of the Vaux-le-Vicomte castle, during a long residency in 2013-2014. Lastly, the series "Asperity" explores the rough, unrefined landscapes of Iceland and the connection to nature's most essential elements: minerals, water, ice, fire, light and wood. Here, the photographer takes the plunge and becomes a painter. By employing layers of ink, emulsion and oil on the cotton paper, wood mounted photographs, he evokes the true reliefs and asperities found in nature, as revealed with his monumental triptych "Silent Path n°1", on show at Spazio Nobile.

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by Pro Materia Gallery
Contemporary Applied Arts,
Design & Photography

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Jörg Bräuer has received numerous awards: Graphis gold award in 100 Best in Photography Annual, IPA International photography award, Prix de la Photographie Paris, LUX in Spain, Photo District News New York, Communication Arts Design Annual.

The work of **Nathalie Dewez** extends from small objects to monumental installations, from the unique piece to the industrial product, in collaboration with international brands such as Hermès (FR), Habitat (UK), Ligne Roset (FR), Established&Sons (UK), Moome (BE), among others.

Established in 2002, ND Design studio is based in Brussels where Nathalie trained as an interior architect at La Cambre Visual Arts School. In 2011 she received the 'Design Pierre Bergé Foundation' award and the same year was nominated Belgian Designer of the Year.

Nathalie Dewez is a designer whose main medium is light and whose materials vary between metal, glass and other long-lasting medium. Whether designing light fixtures, objects, furnishings or large-scale sculptures, she also works as consultant in lighting for several architecture offices such as 51N4E or Archi2000. Nathalie's designs reveal her passion for sculptural shapes and high end craftsmanship. Subtly, she includes in her work the duality 'matter / non-matter', which she sees as being at the core of all lighting devices. With an emphasis on function as well as on the quality of light in both on and off situations, Nathalie's works are characterized by an economic use of means, a minimum use of components and a focus on ease of production.

The exhibition at Spazio Nobile puts forward some of her iconic pieces such as the Balance Light, nominated Best Product at the London Design Festival in 2010. The "Moon" suspension, originally designed for the Chapelle Musicale Reine Elisabeth in Waterloo, is a limited edition (8+2 AP) created specifically for Spazio Nobile in brushed stainless steel, like the "Still XL" suspension and the backlit mirror "Smoke and Mirrors" with its silvered oceanic glass. The wall light "Reflector" and the garden lamps "Lucciola" are the result of a new collaboration between Nathalie Dewez, the Brussels-based manufacture Vervloet and Spazio Nobile. Eventually, the "Flying" suspension, has been crafted for the gallery in partnership with the French firm TF Urban.

The Belgian designer **Kaspar Hamacher** (1981, Eupen, BE) is graduated from the Academie Beeldende Kunsten of Maastricht, Netherlands. Taking nature as his basis, he is focused resolutely on physical rather than conceptual design. As he says himself, he feels more craftsman than designer. The things he can do with wood appeal to the imagination: whether it is a tree stump or a piece of leather, the key is authenticity in every step of his design process. Kaspar's working method always results in a unique, personal piece. The pieces of wood, sourced directly from the forest, dictate the shape and dimensions of each piece, whose Kaspar releases the essence, in an almost animistic relationship with the material. Sculpting the forms with fire ('ausgebrannt'), he is able to bring out strong contrasts between the rough surfaces and the most silky polishing and to reveal their unexpected beauty.

The exhibition at Spazio Nobile will disclose, along the emblematic low tables "Der Stein" and the stools "Ausgebrannt", other unique pieces designed for the gallery, such as "The Shelves" in massive oak, "The Desk", crafted from one single tree trunk, a splendid "Ellipse" walnut table surrounded by "Hocker" stools and a bench in burned wood, the "Torch" fire-formed totems and the new "Giraffe" bench.

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Spazio Nobile, a space dedicated to culture and creation

Highlighting expertise in design and the applied arts (glass, metal, wood, ceramic, etc.) as well as in photography, Spazio Nobile aims to create a dialogue between diverse disciplines; a harmonious melange of contemporaneity and sense of history. More than a “gallery” in the conventional sense, Spazio Nobile is a platform for work and exchange, dedicated to shared know-how; an aesthetic encounter that always offers a full cultural and sensory experience.

With four main exhibition seasons per year, Spazio Nobile puts together a rigorous programme for visitors and collectors who are searching for meaning through unique pieces, limited editions and one-of-a-kind experiences. Bringing photography together with applied arts and design, the gallery is a place of artistic interaction, where Belgian and international talents can cohabitate. The culture of images and objects is at the heart of the gallery’s programme. Creators fill the spaces in a sensitive and personal way, as in an apartment or an intimate showcase, allowing a free movement that is far removed from the spirit of a “white box.” The exhibits are personal stories or questions that reveal the imagination and intention beyond objects. Dinners and gatherings punctuate each season, giving a true humanist dimension to the space.

Space-time: interior design on a human scale

Staying true to their path, nurtured by artistic complicity and intuition, Lise Coirier and Gian Giuseppe entrust Belgian Michel Penneman with the interior design of the gallery. Known for hotel projects: thewhitehotel (for which Lise collaborated), the Pantone, the Tenbosch, the Zoom, the Vintage, Penneman is characterised by a convivial, open to the city, spirit. His activity as a creator of 3D images adapts interiors for contemporary and urban lifestyles. While retaining the character and details inherent in the architectural style of a 1920s town house, Penneman developed a refined setting, neutral but warm and nuanced; emphasising the three-room suite opening up to the city garden, to enhance the quality of the space for exhibitions. A long kitchen and “endless table” equally play a role in the setting of the space, which will also host cross-discipline dinners and friendly gatherings.

For its interior design, the gallery also turned to three Belgian manufactures, who marked the space with installations offering a sensorial impact and an entirely subjective experience. Brussels label Vervloet permeated the setting all the way from the door of the street entrance, with a very tactile double participation: Portofino nobs and a special series of door handles designed by goldsmith Nedda El-Asmar. 2Tec2/Limited Edition and Delta Light are also enhancing the quality of the space both for the flooring and lighting design of Spazio Nobile.

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For more detailed information

Spazio Nobile: rue Franz Merjay 142, B- 1050 Brussels, Belgium – open Wednesday to Saturday, from 11 AM to 6 PM or by appointment –
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www.spazionobile.com

For the gallery: Lise Coirier, +32475531988, lc@spazionobile.com
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Visuels : Spazio Nobile Season II

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/q1nbd12jmjuuc6e/AACI8vmEg_jghZlggQtRshINa?dl=0

Season II – Jörg Bräuer, Nathalie Dewez, Kaspar Hamacher, from 15 September to 20 November 2016.

Vernissage: Wednesday 14th September 2016 from 6 to 10 pm.

Conference: Friday 16th September 2016, 6.30 to 9.30 PM
Philipp Thonet, the 5th generation descendant of Michael Thonet, Thonet GmbH (Frankenberg/Eder), will speak about Thonet's tubular steel icons, the timeless bentwood classics as well as the contemporary and minimalistic furniture and lighting pieces, including bespoke designs. RSVP: lc@promateriagallery.com, limited seats (50).

Sunday Brunch in the presence of the designers and the photographer: 18 September from 11 am to 4 pm. Free access.

During Design September Brussels, www.designseptember.be

In collaboration with :

Bis Lighting, Glass is Tomorrow, KKDC, Lasvit, 2TEC2/Limited Edition, TF Urban, Thonet, Vervloet, Wästberg

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