

# PIANO NOBILE

GALLERY

## Press release.

Brussels, 29 February 2016.

### **Piano Nobile Gallery for applied art, design and photography opens its doors**

#### *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, Piano Nobile aims to create a dialogue between diverse disciplines; a harmonious melange of contemporaneity and sense of history.

Piano Nobile is the shared project of a couple made up of two art historians who have taken complementary paths in their own lives. With more than 20-years in the field of art and design, Lise Coirier has focussed her career on spotlighting designers who infuse matter with form and life. Her husband, Gian Giuseppe Simeone, followed a parallel journey, concentrating on the preservation of cultural and artistic heritage but also public awareness.

As its name implies, the gallery is located on the main floor of a 1920s Brussels 'maison de maître'; the term Piano Nobile recalls patrician Italian homes and the principle reception rooms or collection room. However, Piano Nobile is more than a "gallery" in the conventional sense. It is a platform for work and exchange, dedicated to shared know-how; an aesthetic encounter that always offers a full cultural and sensory experience. An ideal setting for living exhibitions and storytelling.

With two main exhibition seasons per year, Piano 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. To keep the look and meaning renewed, capsule collections will be inserted during the six months of the exhibitions.

#### ***The first exhibition: Post Natural History by Vincent Fournier***

For its first exhibition, Piano Nobile hosts French artist Vincent Fournier for his Post Natural History exhibition, presented in the format of a contemporary cabinet of curiosities. The showcase runs through a large universe, linking photography with 3D application. The result of a great attention to contradictions and the imponderable, Fournier's works are poetic and meticulous, freely nurtured by cinematographic and literary inspirations. Fascinated by science, architecture, technology and its mysteries, his installations explore all fictional potential.

Piano Nobile Gallery  
Rue Franz Merjay 142  
B-1050 Brussels, Belgium

[ggs@pianonobilegallery.com](mailto:ggs@pianonobilegallery.com)  
[lc@pianonobilegallery.com](mailto:lc@pianonobilegallery.com)  
[www.pianonobilegallery.com](http://www.pianonobilegallery.com)

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His works can be found in many permanent collections, and are regularly exhibited at major galleries or institutions, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Fondation Louis Vuitton Paris, Mori Art Museum of Tokyo, the Rencontres d'Arles, the Fondation EDF, the Musée des Arts décoratifs Paris, to only name a few.

Post Natural History recounts the story of a voyage through time and projects a near and imaginary future. A subtitled “archaeology of the future,” this exhibition mixes history and anticipation, memory and science fiction. It reveals a collection of creatures that are “beginning to appear,” imagined through synthetic and cybernetic biology. Composed of three declinations around the possible transformation of the living world, the exhibition questions the relationships of man with nature and with technology, and emphasises the futility of vanity. The presentation, with “scientific” explanations accompanying images, paradoxically reinforces reality as well as fiction.

This first exhibition is particularly representative of the universe that Piano Nobile aims to present. Reinforced with iconographic references and documents, it includes a significant narrative dimension as well as a prospective vision, questioning the passing of time, the values of authenticity and the transmission of knowledge, materiality and the invisible. Post Natural History is an exhibition completely in line with the gallery’s positioning, a search for meaning and a link between the past and future.

## ***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 designers and three Belgian manufactures, who marked the space with installations offering a sensorial impact and an entirely subjective experience. Nathalie Dewez refined the space with lighting objects and a mirror with silvery oceanic effects, while Kaspar Hamacher sculpted wood to produce beautiful dugout pieces, as the office and the shelving system. 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 Piano Nobile.

## ***For more detailed information***

Piano Nobile: rue Franz Merjay 142, B- 1050 Brussels, Belgium – open Wednesday to Saturday, from 11 AM to 6 PM (except during Art Brussels) or by appointment –  
T. +32 (0) 2 768 25 10  
[www.pianonobilegallery.com](http://www.pianonobilegallery.com)

For the gallery: Lise Coirier, +32475531988, [lc@pianonobilegallery.com](mailto:lc@pianonobilegallery.com)  
& Gian Giuseppe Simeone +32477272904, [ggs@pianonobilegallery.com](mailto:ggs@pianonobilegallery.com)

For press : Nathalie Zalcmán, Forum Communication, +32475797701, visuals: [ns@forum-communication.be](mailto:ns@forum-communication.be)

Season I – Vincent Fournier, “Post Natural History”, from 20 April to 11 September 2016.

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Vernissage: Tuesday 19 April 2016 from 6 to 10 pm.

Nocturne: Wednesday 20 April 2016 from 6 to 9 pm.

Art Brussels - Parcours VIP & Collectors Tour – Artist & Curator-Run Spaces:  
from Thursday 21 to Sunday 24 April 2016, 11 am to 6 pm

Piano Nobile Brunch with Vincent Fournier: Sunday 24 April from 11 am to 4 pm.

In collaboration with :

Bis Lighting, Carlo Brandelli, Delta Light, Nathalie Dewez, Kaspar Hamacher, Kvadrat,  
Materialise, Michel Penneman, Glass is Tomorrow, Lasvit, 2TEC2/Limited Edition, Samsung  
Serif / Bouroullec, Thonet, Vervloet, Wästberg

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