

For Milano Design City 2021 **Hillsideout** is presenting a selection of unique handcrafted works at the gallery **Rossana Orlandi** that are able to contribute to a dreamy atmosphere of a living room. In exhibition are therefore furnishing such as side-tables, benches, bookshelves, cupboards, tables, lamps, boiserie/room dividers and even a throne that can turn into a chaise longue. As usual at Hillsideout, however, nothing is what it seems. Every piece of furniture has its own story that calls the world into question and likes to turn it upside down as well.

Mainly noble Italian but also Amazonian wood is used for the production, which is treated as naturally as possible in order to do justice to the value of the material itself, but also the reuse of old chairs or benches, historical lamps or leftovers from processing such as Murano glass or acrylic can be found continuously in Hillsideout's research.

Exhibited pieces on the ground floor:



throne-chase longue “kamasutra” (2020) unique edition of 10 + 1 a.p.

Used materials: handcrafted walnut, mahogany, maple and olive wood, acrylic, lambda print | Dimensions: cm L 126 x D 100 x H 162

Many poor stools made of walnut wood coming from a floor make one single important furnishing: a throne which turns out to be as well a chaise longue.

The editions are more than unique because each throne changes on one hand by applying different stools and different woods and on the other hand because of the printed picture in the seat-back which determines the "meaning" of the throne. This one, which is the first edition, has been called Kamasutra because it shows a stone carving bas relief sculpture of a woman of a huge Hindu temple complex in Khajuraho, in the state of Madhya Pradesh in India. It is one of the many sculptures, which were discovered in the beginning of the 20th century, and which prove the artistical-industrial production of the Chandela

Rajput kings of Central India in the 10th-century.

The picture which changes in every edition gives the throne its specific meaning. You can try to make a game out of it: What happens to your perception if you put an image of coffee or slaves? What happens to the piece if you put an image of a moon, of black oil in the sea or a wrinkled face of an old man? The throne, in specific this type of furnishing, definitely leads us towards questions of power.



coffee-table “blooming skyline” (2014) unique edition of 10+1 a.p.

Used materials: poplar and alder wood, acrylic, lambda prints, screws of brass, epoxy resin | Dimensions: cm L 130 x D 70 x H 49

Ancient peoples observed the night sky to point out stars and positioned their houses in relationship to the star constellations above them, just to feel closer to the stars and not so small in the huge universe. Inspired by this thought, Hillsideout presents the coffee-table that frames and evidences a city structure. The houses of the city are reverted towards the ground because it represents an imaginary city

built following a star constellation. Small images of exotic flowers are inserted in some of these house due to the ancient alchemic belief that flowers are related to stars.



cabinet-showcase “lost wax” (2017) unique edition of 7 + 1 a.p.

Used materials: wood of muirapiranga, zebrano, acacia, roxinho, nut and cherry, acrylic, brass | Dimensions: cm L 145 x D 50 x H 247

This cabinet is inspired by the idea of revealing working processes and the importance of structures which usually are hidden, in particular it is dedicated to the lost-wax casting and labyrinth in ancient Greece. The external shelvestructure of the cabinet recalls the channels necessary for the lost-wax casting for bronze originated in Crete. Myths narrate that Zeus, the sky and thunder god, was born there in a bee cave - which could symbolise the first foundry for lost-wax casting. Zeus, whose original form was a lightning, could transform in any shape and form like a melting of bronze. The event of the bee cave provoked the primal fear of loosing the original and having a copy - the huge fear of being replicated. In the center of the piece, that means in its heart, is a

little secret door that refers to an ancient structure known on the Greek island: the labyrinth which is presented moreover in the inly works made of zebra wood in the from doors of the cabinet.



bookcase “babel tower III” (2020) open limited edition

Used materials: handcrafted woods of walnut, maple, olive, Roxinho and mahogany tree, acrylic, brass, 10 wheels | Dimensions: cm L 93 x D 93 x H 234

The bookcase’s form finds its inspiration in the famous myth of the Tower of Babel meant to explain why the world's peoples speak different languages. The myth narrates a city with a tower tall enough to reach heaven. God, observing their city and tower, confounds their speech so that they can no longer understand each other, and scatters them around the world.

The structure incorporates additionally the idea of different countries and languages by choosing different woods for each shelf coming from different countries: maple tree from Croatia, walnut tree from France, olive tree from Italy, Amazonian woods as well as a mix of all of them in the upper shelf.

The whole structure is rotatable, so that books and objects can be taken easily through spinning the showcase.



side-tables “Murano waste” (2021) open limited edition

Used materials: Murano glass, woods, epoxy resin, acrylic, electrical light system with textile cable and light bulb | Dimensions: cm L 44 x D 44 x H 39

The collection "Murano waste" features side-tables that re-use existing casts and materials like the precious Murano glass from Venice but also rests of acrylic, resin, concrete or wood. Their square and round forms are taken from buckets which are generally used in the construction industry, so no more cast has been made for the side-table.

The side-table is as well lighting and stool in one and can be easily moved due to small wheels fixed under the structures.

Hillsideout gives them their names through an element of nature by choosing colours related to “forest”, “sunset” or “ocean”.



pendant lamp “liquid colour Küken lamp” (2021) unique limited edition
Used materials: bakelite, handcrafted alder, walnut, cherry, chestnut and Lebanon cedar wood, electrical light system with twisted textile cable and light bulb, acrylic | Dimensions: cm L 45 x D 45 x H 45

Lamps, found in the factories of former East Germany, built in the Sixties for heating newborn chicks in the coop, are transformed into elegant and simple contemporary lighting. Made of Bakelite - an early plastic developed in New York in 1907 - the lamp is covered with coloured resin and held by a handcrafted wooden structure. The shape of the wooden frame is a hexagram and each side has a 30 degree angle.



bench “liquid colour bench” (2015) unique edition
Used materials: restored bench of elm wood from the end of 18th century, nut wood, epoxy resin, color | Dimensions: cm L 117 x D 45 x H 83

An antique bench transforms into a new piece by celebrating colour and its uniqueness when it reacts with resin. The result of colourful shades, which cannot be repeated in the same way, is combined with wood treated in natural way maintaining the antique furnishing. The restored wooden bench is an original one from the 18th century, it has Italian origins but the style is Louis XVI. The sitting made of resin, acrylic and color changes completely in different light situations.



pendant light sculpture “dream journey III” (2012) unique edition
Used materials: melted copper, textile ropes, textile cables, light bulb | Dimensions: cm L 70 x D 70 x H 110

The functionality of an object is called into question by eliminating the main thing that makes it become that specific object. A hot air balloon cannot fly when there is a hole in the balloon and usually it is not heavy. However this sculpture that does not fly makes us fly instead and in this time mentally because it emphasises the love of travelling also through imagination.

Exhibited pieces on the first floor:



table “lines under the forest” (2017) unique edition of 12 + 1 a.p.
Used materials: woods coming from plantations certified in Amazonia, African woods and woods from our region of origin: Italy, Germany and Russia + transparent opaline acrylic |
Dimensions: cm L 180 x D 69 x H 75

This piece is inspired by the gigantic hieroglyphics of geometric forms found in the Amazonian forest. At least 450 of these huge drawings and enormous figures made of low walls of stone and huge drawings were discovered in the Seventies in the heart of the Amazonian forest due to the deforestation. We represent the lines of one of those hieroglyphics, the hieroglyph Acrelandia in Northern

Brazil, on the table top through the inlay work by using certified woods which come from the Amazonian forest: Roxinha and Muirapiranga. The streets which were built in recent years covering or partly destroying the hieroglyphics are represented by using inserts of acrylic.



bench “mosaiced Thonet bench” (2018) unique open editions
Used materials: handcrafted wood, original Thonet chairs from the Thirties, epoxy resin, coloured acrylic | Dimensions: cm L 130 x D 60 x H 90 (H 47 cm)

The bench finds its inspiration in the mosaiced floors constructed during the Romanesque period in holy places which nowadays are often located under water due to the higher water level.

For this piece original Thonet chairs were restored and transformed into a bench and the original sittings have been replaced with coloured tiles immersed in resin which reflect their colours in certain light situation towards surfaces close-by evoking the idea of water reflections.



side-table “up]side[down” (2016) unique limited edition
Used materials: handcrafted alder and nut wood, plexiglass, screws |
Dimensions: cm L 60 x D 60 x H 80

This piece is made of handcrafted wood and acrylic; the form of the table leg reminds a column which indeed is the main element of this sculptural piece. The two tops made of acrylic are adapted for a playful and and creative daily use which fits perfectly next to the sofa or in the entrance.



boiserie-separé “Chaac” (2016) unique edition of 7 + 1 a.p.
Used materials: handcrafted wood of walnut, chestnut, alder, cherry and Lebanon cedar wood, acrylic, stopsol mirrors, lambda prints, screws of brass and magnets | Dimensions: variable, about cm L 330 x D 5 x H 200 | the whole piece consists of 7 movable and dismountable partitions

"Chaac" is a narrative and anthropological boiserie-separé for interiors. It can be used as wall decoration as well as a space divider. The piece is entirely made of handcrafted wood with inserts of photographic prints and acrylic. The openings made in wood form a stylised mask which was inspired by the Maya rain divinity Chaac. Both sides of the separé are equally elaborated and the images in the openings can be seen from both sides.



On one hand the images are related to the rain-maker Chaac, the beliefs of the Pre-Columbian people and their ball game Pelote and on the other hand you can find images of a historical billiard factory in Milan due to the visual and philosophical associations between Pelote and the game of billiards. Two worlds became one through vegetation, roots and universal symbols like holes, snakes, numbers, water and heaven.



“mosaic chair” (2013) unique limited edition

Used materials: antique chairs of elm wood from 1790, old chestnut wood, epoxy resin, transparent and coloured acrylic | Dimensions: about cm L 44 x D 35 x H 86

The mosaic chair is part of the mosaic furniture collection that finds its inspiration in the element 'water'. It is made of a restored chair from 1790, which belong to the style of Louis XVI. The chair is lightened through the sitting made of transparencies. The coloured tiles are immersed in resin and remind the Romanesque period but through a contemporary use of materials. The transparency permits a new way of using antique chairs which makes them even more unique.



“wooden floor stool with back-seat” (2021) unique limited edition

Used materials: handcrafted woods of walnut and alder
Dimensions: cm L 38 x D 40 x H 102

The bar stool is made of an antique piece of walnut wood coming from a floor and handcrafted elm wood. The heights are all different in order to have the right size for everybody, adapted for both kids and adults.



side-tables “Murano waste” (2021) open limited edition

Used materials: Murano glass, woods, epoxy resin, acrylic, electrical light system with textile cable and light bulb | Dimensions: cm L 37 x D 37 x H 39

The collection "Murano waste" features side-tables that re-use existing casts and materials like the precious Murano glass from Venice but also rests of acrylic, resin, concrete or wood. Their square and round forms are taken from buckets which are generally used in the construction industry, so no more cast has been made for the side-table.

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cupboard “sand senses” (2020) unique edition of 10 + 1 a.p.

Used materials: handcrafted woods of maple, olive, larch and muirapiranga tree, coloured Murano glass, concrete | Dimension: cm L 210 x D 50 x H 77 | unique edition: 10 + 1 a.p.

The cupboard "sand senses" is inspired by geometrical shapes which's materials are made of sand and which's surface opens senses when touched. Sand seems to have no limit - it comes from earth. Burnt sand makes the Murano glass as transparent it became famous for. And cement incorporates more than one type of sand – one comes from the river and the other one has been transformed through a chemical process. The results are all touchable as the woods which's soft surface is due to the final step of wood elaboration when the material is sandblasted and treated by oil-wax only.

Geometrical sand shapes can be found in the legs that are made of concrete and in the doors as on the top where the openings are made of coloured Murano glass. With its four colourful doors, two drawers and several shelves this piece turns out to be a very aesthetically and practical cupboard adapted for both storing and showcase use.