

Stories and Other Objects

GROUP SHOW

18 November 2021 – 19 February 2022

Gallery FUMI's new group exhibition *Stories and Other Objects* features an exciting selection of works by the gallery roster of international artists and designers.

Presenting newly commissioned work along with a selection of key pieces, the exhibition invites visitors to observe the growth of artists who are at the forefront in the use of materials and technologies. Some are using new colours, materials and shapes. Others are moving towards a more figurative aesthetic; whilst others are taking inspiration from their past, or their mistakes.

For Italian craftsman Francesco Perini, nature serves as the main inspiration of his 'creatures' - as he likes defining the works that he makes applying his marquetry skills. Living in the Tuscan countryside and observing the surrounding landscape, Perini's work is a celebration of the simplest natural elements: leaves, trees, water. Now his attention has turned to pebbles and especially rock cairns. The result is a monumental oak dining table with concrete inlays resembling three pebbles balancing on each other and testing the laws of gravity.

Similarly, the work of Rowan Mersh celebrates natural forms and movements by assembling small components. *Pithváva Echinothrix Ibrida II*, whose soft-like appearance is achieved by combining two different types of seashells, is reminiscent of a flower shape. Inspired by the botanical illustrations of German scientist and artist Ernst Haeckel, the artist has moved towards a more figurative shape, setting a point of departure from the geometrical structures that he had used in his previous work.

The London design duo JAMESPLUMB presents *Altar Within*, three sculptural works from their *Steel Monoliths* series. The designers' signature style consists in transforming found objects into aesthetically and conceptually incredible works. The three majestic pieces exhibited, feature a solid steel structure embedded within the frame of antique chairs; a discrete door reveals a hidden plinth.

In one of the gallery windows is a chandelier by the young upstart designer Jie Wu. Made of coloured resin combined with rare antique rosewood, the chandelier is part of the new collection *Una Historia Filosófica De Los Jardines*. Ancient Chinese lanterns found in Imperial gardens - symbols of light and peace - were the inspiration behind the work. The chandelier is an important milestone in the artist's career, whose practice has evolved from making small decorative boxes to side tables, consoles and now a remarkable chandelier.

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Among many highlights is a bronze head by Voukenas Petrides. The creative process of the Athens based designers is characterised by constant experimentation creating furniture pieces with sculptural properties. Inspired by Picasso' sculptures exhibited at the MoMA New York, Petrides started making heads and figures made of plaster, which have lately developed into the duo's renowned Gypsum seatings. The piece on display is the first bronze version of the plaster heads, an homage to Picasso, and the symbol of the inception of the designers' current practice.

Sam Orlando Miller focuses on the beauty of mirror and glass, creating freestanding and wall sculptures that are visually illusive. For the artist, evolution often means a look back into the origins, working with new awareness of his previous pieces. *Bronze Age Feeling 4: Cielo Nuovo* and *Bronze Age Feeling 2: Baldacchino Romano*, two wall pieces in the shades of bronze, are a reinterpretation of *Untitled Mirrors* that he started making in 2009. Many are the aspects that he has resolved by applying subtle but significant changes; *Cielo Nuovo*, differently from the original mirrors, has a concave faceted surface which resembles a reflective pool.

Running across both gallery floors, the exhibition also features notable projects by Josepha Gasch-Muche, Max Lamb, Study O Portable, Eelko Moorer, Johannes Nagel, Glithero, Shinta Nakajima, Frederick Nystrup-Larsen, Lukas Wegwerth, and Tuomas Markunpoika.

Visitors will be immersed into a world where fine craftsmanship meets conceptual rigour, blending emotions with narrative.

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