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DESIGN UNLEASHED

FEATURE: MICAH MCGEE. PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF MAISON&OBJET

MAISON&OBJET Paris 2016
takes to the *Wild!* for scores
of artistically-inclined
escapades.



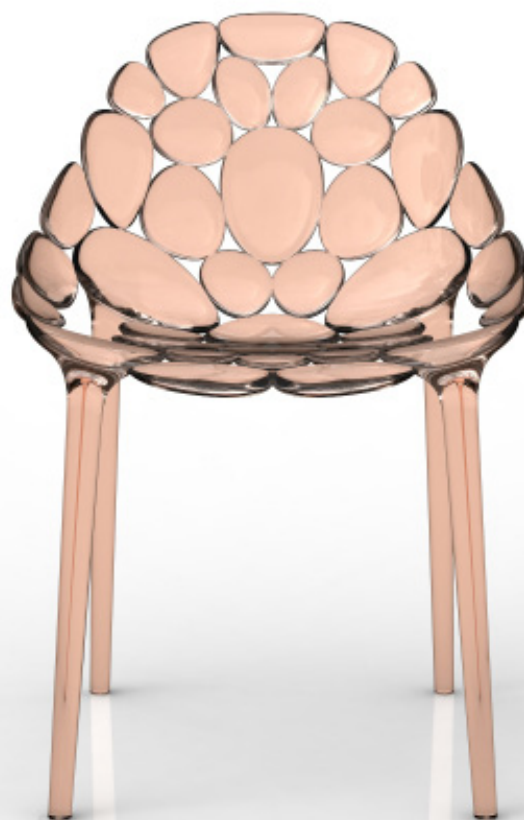


Eugeni Quitllet's celebrated creations

The world is becoming heavier, and not just with the human population. Technology-laden devices and "excessive domestication" are pervasively stealing away the free land and the free spirit of the earth. This year's MAISON&OBJET Paris theme, *Wild!* sought to return to a quieter, Arcadian landscape to reset designers, innovators and major companies to naturalise the prevailing urban spaces. Fair designers were likened to shamans as they led the design world back to the centre of life with their raw, elementary and often unpolished creations. The result was, in typical M&O PARIS fashion, winningly avant-garde.

2016 DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

Leading the pack, designer Eugeni Quitllet was awarded *M&O PARIS Designer of the Year January 2016*. More than just a designer, Quitllet is an innovative pioneer, celebrated for his sophisticated works combining technology, innovation and style. At the fair he showcased his favourite works: The *Dream-Air* for Kartell is a weightless tube chair that the visionary describes as "a simple frame capturing the beauty of the curve of a body sitting in empty space." *VK-1*, another popular Quitllet design, features headphones boasting aluminium ear cups and lambskin leather ear pads. A master at mixing seeming contradictions, Quitllet also designed a collection of luxurious and archetypal cutlery for Christofle, proving that his innovation knows no bounds.



The glimmering Cloud-io by Quitllet for Kartell



Jonas Edvard



Terroir Project by Edvard

THE RISING TALENTS

Talents à la Carte was a space created to highlight six emerging young talents. The Nordic contingent came out to claim the lion's share of the slots. Jonas Edvard is a design graduate of the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts with an ardour for designing new objects via the development of raw, unprocessed materials in order to create sustainable furniture. Concocted from seaweed and paper, Edvard's furniture in the *Terroir Project* is characterised by its lightness akin to paper and its texture likening that of cork. The name was derived from the French word "terroir," meaning the complete, distinct environmental climate in which a product arises. These natural characteristics stand as the singular components comprising Edvard's sustainable furniture.



Troels Flensted



Flensted's poured bowls



Flensted's series of resin tabletops proffer colour flecks of pigment

Another experimental designer, Troels Flensted, revealed his works that explored the possibilities of combining alternative manufacturing processes with different colours and various material behaviours. Minimalist in shape, the Danish designer lets the colours of his works speak for the character of the objects. His often colourful poured bowls, tables and other works have made headlines in numerous art shows this past year, revealing the appealing nature of his quirky creations.



Design pair Färg & Blanche



F-A-B chair by Färg & Blanche

Also delightfully experimental, designers Fredrik Färg and Emma Marga Blanche of bespoke Färg & Blanche studio were awarded a spot in *Talents à la Carte*. The pair, already established in the design scene for a few years, have found themselves exhibiting in furniture fairs from Tokyo to London to Milan and collaborating with prominent furniture brands to produce their signature experimental works with a tailored finish. Glancing at the upholstered back of their featured chair *Frankie*, one will easily realise the source of inspiration – suspender straps referencing the duo's favourite dancer, Frankie Manning. The almost human characteristic provided by the steel braces of the chair is absolutely enamoring.



Nuutinen's Hely pendant lamp



Lyly box series 2015 by Nuutinen

Katriina Nuutinen, a Finnish native, has an affinity for the effects of playing light on glass. A specialist in ceramics and glass, Nuutinen does not shy away from exploring other materials such as leather, metal, wood and textiles in her works. Her newfound love of combining her superior Finnish glass design skills with alternative materials is displayed in her *Hely* pendant lamp. Four glass balls, varying in size and colour, are strung through a wire wreath, similar to a pearl necklace. *Hely* is the jewellery of lighting – beautiful, eclectic and romantically constructed.



Katriina Nuutinen



Oskarsson's Halo lamp's degree of illumination can be adjusted by its leather strap



Kjartan Oskarsson

Of the six, Icelandic designer Kjartan Oskarsson has spent the longest time in the design realm, possessing sixteen years of valuable experience. His latest work focuses on lights and lamps that connect the user with the object, allowing them to explore it in ways previously unimagined. His *Forester* lamp, quite befitting the *Wild!* theme, was inspired by a group of trees. Long copper pipes are attached to a steel base bearing an oak plate. The lamp's user can easily change the directions of the copper pipes to better suit his or her illumination needs.



The experimental renderings of Pat. Vol 1



Weathered by Kneip

Founded by graduates of the Oslo School of Architecture and Design, Jørgen Willumsen and Stian Korntved Ruud, Kneip is a design studio that produces handmade works that exist as a juncture for art, craftsmanship and design. The pair has been exploring the oxidation of metal over different surfaces to note the changes and colours produced among steel, copper and brass. Inspired by geometry, the great outdoors and the weather, the outcome of these metal meddlings has been placed in a mélange of sculptural forms attached to timber blocks to create *Pat. Vol 1*, as featured at *M&O Paris*.



Frankie's suspender-like back was inspired by dancer Frankie Manning

“THE ALMOST HUMAN CHARACTERISTIC PROVIDED BY THE STEEL BRACES OF THE CHAIR *FRANKIE* IS ABSOLUTELY ENAMORING”



Adaptive manufacturing of 3D-printed ceramics by Olivier Van Herpt

TALK ON

M&O Paris hosted a series of talks in *The Conference Spaces* covering everything from celebrity retail outlets, digital technologies, 3D printing and the new literary hotel trend. However, one topic rose to prominence above all others— green architecture. The discussions on this topic revolved around the need for it to be seen as more than just a “tree-hugger” trend. Sustainable eco-designs were presented as the forerunner for future cityscapes, putting together two groups previously seen as diametrically opposed – city inhabitants and nature. Elementary schools with greenhouses, office buildings with rooftop terraces and gardens in repurposed barracks must become the norm for urban planners. According to some of the talks, green spaces need not be demolished or built upon, but rather, they should be accorded special places among industrial landscapes and be given the respect humanity owes them.



Cobra Art Company BV exhibit

PERUSE THE FAIR

Ornamental items did not go unnoticed at *M&O Paris Wild!*, particularly in the *BELOVED* sector, which displayed a variety of trending objects. *Softheads*, a hilarious and adorable take on the once-fashionable taxidermy trophies of a good hunting trip, was a fair favourite. Based in Barcelona, the interior design brand's collection exhibit featured plush, hand-made and textile-based pieces for humorous wall decoration.

Also showcasing interior designs, but with a contemporary emphasis, *ACTUEL* brought forth an astounding array of modish décor items. Examine the photographic art on Plexiglas by Cobra Art Company BV as a magnificent example. Each work was hand-made and featured the likes of a vintage, pop art, nature landscapes or urban art photographs on Plexiglas. The effects are either imaginatively surreal or shockingly realistic.

The *CRAFT, MÉTIERS D'ART* hall honoured rare creations, earthy objects and distinguished craftsmanship. An intriguing object, *Hear Me*, by ANATHOMIE, was formed under the partner work of sculptor Anna Golicz-Cottet and plastic engineer Olivier Thomas, using the humble material iron wire. Bent and straightened in a plethora of ways, the iron wire was constructed in the shape of an old-fashioned record player, sitting atop a black platform attached to a block of wood. The other works in ANATHOMIE's collection also incorporated wood and iron wire to create animated sculptures and calligraphy pieces.



The cute Soft Braco by Softheads



Cobra Art Company BV presents The Night Watch

“M&O PARIS
 BROUGHT TOGETHER
 DESIGNERS, INSPIRING
 DESIGN THAT IS
 EARNESTLY EARTH-
 CONSCIOUS”

M&O Paris was rendered complete with a WILD Café-Bookstore boasting reads and eats to nourish the art souls and the physical bodies of attendees. The professional trade show did more than showcase lauded and budding new talents; it brought together designers from all over the globe to take part in a forum promoting art that invites the world to change its fast-paced takeover of our natural environment, inspiring design that is earnestly Earth-conscious.



Hear Me wire art by ANATHOMIE