



ADRIEN DE MELO

9th September – 26th November 2011

For his first individual exhibition, Adrien De Melo presents a structural vision of the object at Galerie BSL, a skeletal framework that he covers with mineral or vegetal skin. This young designer from the world of artistic production explores an intimate point of tension between true and false, real nature and recreated nature, on the one hand reminiscent of a forest landscape, on the other a metaphor of a rocky surface. Through 7 limited edition objects he reveals the map of an imaginary land where onyx, ceramic and wood form an elegant display of irreverent technical recompositions.

SLICED/TABLE

The SLICED table is a formal and fictional investigation dedicated to the reconstruction of the vertical section of a tree trunk from 9 species of wood, together forming a veined, dynamic and contrasting patchwork. SLICED, a 250 cm long offset representation of a forest landscape, denotes and values what is in fact disappearing today in the process of industrialization of wood: the form, the texture and the very character of the species.

The table top is made from honeycomb composite and 9 wood species covering the sides: wenge; oak; African mahogany; American walnut; dark ash; light ash; steamed beech; American cherry; Canadian maple. Each of the 4 bases is manually turned from a single block of brushed aluminium to achieve a conical form that is as refined as possible, modelled on an abstract pedestal intended to highlight the cabinetmaking skills used for the table top.

MY MOUNTAIN/ARMCHAIR

MY MOUNTAIN is the mountain that we will all have to climb one day. Geometrically, the shape is based upon Mont-Blanc's topographical relief, 4 of its crests thus forming the base. The outline interprets the longitudinal section of a relief or a rocky surface, to which the user is metaphorically invited to take advantage of the landscape. The seat explores the style of princely seats reminiscent of classics such as Ron Arad's 'Little Albert'.

STRIPES/STOOL, BENCH, COFFEE TABLE

The STRIPES collection (stool, bench and coffee table) is the formal synthesis of this exhibition, resuming the formal approach of the SLICED table with a piece of wood built from several species, and exploring the idea of sedimentation and historical stratification of the

geological MY MOUNTAIN armchair.

The STRIPES base unit is a dense and visually asymmetrical 'tree-object(s),' presenting 30 layers of solid wood from 3 species with as many rings evoking lifecycles, genealogy, or the ordeals experienced. The upward and tapering allure evokes the skill of a potter, as if the object had been turned in one piece, the body fusing soaring vertically upwards.

STRIPES stool produced in 2 versions: American cherry, wenge, American walnut and/or light ash.

STRIPES bench: American cherry, wenge and light ash.

STRIPES coffee table: American cherry, wenge and American walnut, slightly offset oval white onyx table top.

LILI/FLOOR LAMP

175 cm high, weighing 39 kg, LILI is a floor lamp which displays the apparent lightness of a white onyx stone, raised, uplifted by a base uniting 8 brushed stainless steel trombone shapes. Its slender silhouette, topped by a levitating quadrilateral, evokes the graphic design in suspension of New York water towers. Fossilised nerves, veins and fluids appear and light up within this interior lamp where the almost translucent rock becomes light.

POINT BREAK/VASE

The glazed earthenware POINT BREAK vase available in 3 colours – optical white, stormy blue, ink-black – represents a moment of tension, fusion and fission. With a play on balance and imbalance, it suggests the implosive as well as explosive meeting of two forces, phenomena or opposing personalities. Two natures in one single object which perhaps embodies, in its mineral tension, the inner paradoxical, as well as permanent fight between Doctor Jekyll and Mr Hyde...

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Solo Show 9th September to 12th November 2011

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