



## **Matter Of Stuff will present exhibitions at ME London and DreamSpace Gallery during London Design Festival 2016**

**LDF 2016 will be the global launch of Curated by MOS furniture collection at ME London Hotel and the unveiling of a MOS pop-up shop at DreamSpace Gallery**

**ME London Hotel, The Strand, Saturday 17- Sunday 25 September 2016**

**Press Preview: Monday 19 September 4-6pm**

At ME London, **Matter of Stuff will unveil furniture pieces by six international designers: Alessandro Zambelli, Nina Cho, Olga Bielawska, Tim Vanlier, Tomas Libertiny and Studio Uffie.**

Following an open competition (MOS Designer Residency Competition) the six winning designers were given the opportunity to work with metal workshop, Toscarì, and marble factory, Carrara Design Factory, in Italy to produce their collections. The competition and residency were established to create new design typologies in marble and metal. Each piece from the Curated by MOS collection is a limited edition of 12.

The exhibition during LDF will also present wine bottle labels, commissioned by Banfi Wine for a limited edition case of its renowned Brunello di Montalcino 2011 wine, and designed by the same designers.

In addition, the exhibition will present a series of marble objects by **Moreno Ratti**, Full Bowl by **Sebastian Bergne** and pieces by **Pia Wustenberg**.

The installation will also include the final design pieces created after a yearlong collaboration with Camberwell College of Arts, where 13 students spent time in the Carrara Marble Quarries and Workshops and responded to the challenge of producing works using waste marble tiles, marble blocks and marble powder.

ME London is London Design Festival's Hotel Partner for the 2016 edition.

**DreamSpace, 10 September - 30 October 2016**

At the DreamSpace Gallery in Shoreditch, Matter of Stuff will unveil a selection of new pieces from their online gallery-shop, [www.matterofstuff.com](http://www.matterofstuff.com). Works by Sara Jaafar/ 1mm Studio, Michal Fargo, Marina Dragomirova, Laetitia DeAllegri and Matteo Fogale, Erik Olovsson, Fernando Laposse, Alessandro Marelli, Olga Bielawska, and Breaking the Mould will be presented.

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**Notes for Editors**

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## **MOS Designer Residency Competition**

Matter of Stuff launched MOS Designer Residency Competition, an international call for entries to create new design typologies in marble and metal, in December 2015 in collaboration with OCRA Officina Creativa dell'Abitare e Scuola Permanente dell'Abitare. In this first edition over 120 design proposals were received from all around the world. The jury, comprising Sofia Steffenoni and Simona Auteri, founders of Matter Of Stuff, Sebastian Bergne, designer and visiting professor, Edoardo Milesi of OCRA and Archos, Giovanni Cutolo, ex-president of Fondazione ADI Collezione Compasso d'Oro and representatives from partner manufacturing companies, selected the winning projects based on their commitment to innovation, technology, design and creativity.

The six winners of the competition developed their projects in collaboration with the two manufacturing companies Toscarì (metal) and Carrara Design Factory (marble) during a month in residence from 18 April to 14 May 2016.

### **MOS Residency Designers**

#### **Alessandro Zambelli: Marque'**

The use of inlaid metal is an homage to Paris of the 20s and to the Art Deco designs of Emile Ruhlmann and Jean Dunand, who were the main advocates of this style. Essential forms, which are minimal yet refined, exude a timeless elegance and are a clear reference to the elitarian craftsmanship, which gave form to such excellence.

In Marque', material and forms become essence of memories, referring to traditional techniques: different styles mix together with the search for new languages that can be achieved within the realm of excellence and craftsmanship only found in Italy. The Art Deco design now reborn in a contemporary key and makes its way in the Third Millennium.

The collection by Alessandro Zambelli for MOS Designer Residency comprises a series of storage furniture that include a small cabinet, a dry bar, a console and a coffee table, where the material used – metal – is read in ebanistic terms through the use of inlays as new element of character and prestige. The linear essentiality of the forms, which is reflected in each element of the collection, is enriched by the presence of precious superficial decors that are juxtaposed through inlays: small metal oxidised plates animate the surface of each storage element with their refined alternation of delicate geometrical motifs. The oxidation process brings a unique mutation of the surface itself, enriched by a whole variety of shades and gradation.

#### **Nina Cho: Coulee**

Creating an entire form out of one material is a main feature of Nina's recent practice, who is interested in marble because each piece is inherently unique in its contrast between the delicate colours and the solid, heavy weight of the material.

Using two heavyweight pieces Nina can create a stable structure by using complimenting geometry: basic marble tabletop slabs usually exist for steel or wood armature. Nina has created a new function for marble as armature and used the joint as an opportunity to talk about shape in a poetic way.



Her creative process often starts with discovering function through the study of form: a hands-on approach, with lots of models that allow her to discover how she can integrate form with a particular function. During the residency, Nina explored various forms and decided on the final design by considering form in relation to the materiality of the marble.

### **Olga Bielawska: Veiled**

The stay in Italy during the MOS Designer Residency was an opportunity to develop a new body of work substantiated by a remote geographic context while thoroughly embedded in the know-how of the local craftsman.

The intention for Olga's project was to create an object that experiments with the dichotomy between a silk and soft looking surface in a hard material like marble. The inspiration was taken from the folds of textiles that envelop ancient statues, and wanting to create something that appears three-dimensional in a flat and two-dimensional material by making a pattern and then using it for an object.

After visiting and talking to various workshop facilities in Carrara, Olga decided to work with a technique that allows the production of different optical effects for products. One result is a design for a series of different tables covered by a pattern playing with the contrast of black and white marble that creates the illusion of an accidentally thrown tablecloth.

An important aspect was to combine a modern technique (water jet cutting) with a traditional method to make patterns (inlays) by pairing craftsmanship with precise geometrical forms.

For a series of trays with similar optical effects, Olga used water jet engraving to create a very fine pattern and filled it with resin.

### **Tomas Libertiny: Feather**

Marble is to Tomas a material rich with meaning. The challenge is that of exploring the limits of the structural quality and poetics of marble, taking inspiration from the theme of lightness, which is a constant in his sculptural and philosophical work.

### **Studio Uufie: Echo**

The Echo table pushes the material limits of metal and wood to imagine an intangible reality. The grain reveals the history of a piece of wood. By using a technique that exposes the hardwood (season of winter) and embedding metal into the lines of the softwood (season of summer), each growth creates an elusive boundary between the two materials. Removing the sense of substantial weight and density of the materials further enhances the objectivity.

Beauty and inspiration are found all around us. The table legs reference the shape generated by the spilling of water. The variation of the tabletop in an organic circle is reminiscent of a stone formed by the sea current. It enacts the activity and motion, which would happen around a table.



Alluding to the subtle shades of a sunrise, the colours of the three tables are created in three metal: aluminium, copper and brass.

### **Tim Vanlier: Remetaled / Mirrored**

The total immersion in the Tuscan territory has given a fresh approach to Tim's creative process, which consists of precious moments in time and in space within the immediate environment where his creativity gets nourished.

During the residency, Tim has conducted wide material research, experimenting specifically with stratification, which brings depth, surprise and gives metal an innovative materiality. Tim has been constantly inspired by the manufacturing possibilities of Toscarì, with whom he established an intense collaboration which has had profound effect on his design project.

What happens when we put metal tubes together in a press? Or what if we use leftover pieces to fill a mold? And how can a coating give just that special effect? The cooperation of Toscarì on these three questions led to the development of three design collections, which are each in a unique way carrier of the layered concept.

### **Additional Designers**

#### **Moreno Ratti: Collezione Svelata**

Series of handmade vases made from a single piece of Carrara Marble. The idea is born from the desire to create a timeless flower pot, which is classic and modern at the same time, just as the material it is made of.

The vessels of Collezione Svelata are unique pieces, handcrafted out of white Carrara marble exclusively for Matter of Stuff. The relationship between the modern and classical forms is revealed thanks to the Artisan who handcarves the piece.

#### **Sebastian Bergne: Full Bowl**

Full bowls are on the point of overflowing. The precious marble is crafted into a form that makes a liquid form solid. They function normally as bowls only sharing the expected volume with the object itself. This makes them ideal for displaying small amounts of beautiful food or objects.

Each Full bowl is hand turned in Italy from marble. Variations in grain and colouring make each bowl unique.

#### **Banfi Wine & Design**

Banfi Wine & Design is an artistic project that celebrates the exclusive character of Banfi's signature wine: the Brunello di Montalcino Castello Banfi.



The project is born from the collaboration of Banfi with MOS and OCRA for the first edition of “MOS Designer Residencies Competition”, in which the six winners could develop and realise their concepts thanks to two Tuscan leading factories: Toscari and Carrara Design Factory.

Their talent was so overwhelming that Banfi decided to call them for a challenge, and asked them to create a label for a special limited edition of Brunello di Montalcino Castello Banfi 2011. The project involves the production of customised wooden boxes, each containing six numbered bottles of 750 ml., with a label designed by each artist. The designers were inspired by their personal reinterpretation of the official label of Castello Banfi Brunello di Montalcino, driven in their work by the six pillars on which is founded the Banfi philosophy: Territory, Tradition, Innovation, Quality, Passion and Sustainability.

### **About Matter of Stuff**

Matter of Stuff is a London-based online gallery and an art and design community founded by architects Simona Auteri and Sofia Steffenoni. MOS promotes the power of craft and the act of making, and operates in the fields of contemporary architecture, interior spaces and product design. The site is a platform for customers and design aficionados to gain insight into the creative process that lie behind the precious objects for sale. The range of products brought together by MOS combine cutting-edge techniques with traditional craftsmanship, serving to reinvigorate the collective imagination. [www.matterofstuff.com](http://www.matterofstuff.com)

### **About ME London**

This year, London Design Festival welcomes ME London as Hotel Partner for the first time. The hotel is ideally located directly opposite Somerset House, one of the key destinations for design enthusiasts.

Contemporary luxury hotel, ME London, is the flagship property for the ME by Meliá brand, located on the Strand in the cultural heart of London. The UK's first Foster + Partners' hotel, ME London is one of the leading hotels in the capital offering 157 chic guestrooms, 16 luxurious suites and signature penthouse Suite ME.

ME London is home to the renowned Radio Rooftop Bar with panoramic views of the city's skyline from Tower Bridge to the Houses of Parliament. The hotel also boasts international dining outlets of STK (a world famous steak house) and lounge bar Marconi Lounge. [MEBYMELIA.COM](http://MEBYMELIA.COM) Twitter @MELondonHotel, Facebook @ME.London.Hotel, Instagram @me\_londonhotel

### **About ME by Meliá**

ME by Meliá is a personality-led, lifestyle brand that seeks to fuse innovative style with local tastes in order to captivate clientele with a love for contemporary art and design, international cuisine and world music. By capturing these elements in urban and resort destinations, the ME philosophy adds a more personal touch to the guest experience. Follow ME by Meliá on Twitter @MEbyMelia and Facebook mebymelia. [www.mebymelia.com](http://www.mebymelia.com).