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DANISH ARTS FOUNDATION
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PRESS RELEASE

Danish Crafts Collection shows new directions in Paris

Natural materials from the Danish subsoil, textile recycling and new semi-industrial methods. The five designers selected for this year's Danish Crafts Collection present a new future for craft, craftsmanship and smart consumption at Maison & Objet in Paris on 4-8 September 2015.

The Danish Arts Foundation presents the new Danish Crafts Collection, which premieres at the trade fair Maison & Objet in Paris. The Committee for Crafts and Design Project Funding hand-picked five designer-makers who present their innovative ideas and contemporary agendas in the Danish Crafts Collection. This includes recycled materials in sophisticated contexts, innovation based on nature's treasure trove of resources and endless inspiration, and production methods that indicate new viable future scenarios.

The Danish Arts Foundation's new exhibition concept offers the audience a chance to get to know the craftspeople and their products better and to explore the individual makers' work more in depth.

The selected craftspeople and designers

The five craftspeople and designers included in this year's line-up are Amanda Betz, Jonas Edvard, Anne Tophøj, Martine Myrup and Laura Barüel – two furniture makers, a ceramist and two textile artists. The selected craftspeople and designers all have a shared interest in sustainable solutions, which is reflected, for example, in Jonas Edvard's tables, which feature a tabletop made of the natural composite gesso, and by Martine Myrup, who upcycles used textiles and reinterprets ceramic vessels in textile materials.

Laura Barüel and Amanda Betz bring an artist's eye to nature's shapes. Laura Barüel presents oversize plants and flowers on textile, while Amanda Betz folds paper into new organic and pattern-rich expressions – in this case cylindrical brass lamps. Ceramist Anne Tophøj has developed new production methods that lie somewhere between artisanal techniques and serial production, bringing the unique hallmarks of craft into a semi-industrial set-up.

Craft and design is a field with an ongoing development of new methods and products. A shared quality for the five craftspeople and designers is their insistence on rethinking the agenda and show new directions for craft, craftsmanship and smart consumption.

Meet us at Maison & Objet

4-8 September 2015

now! design à vivre

Hall 7, Stand: A188 / B187

See the new collection at www.craftscollection.dk

Download press materials and high-resolution images at www.craftscollection.dk/press

Additional information

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Brief introduction to the five craftspeople and designers

Amanda Betz (born 1978) graduated as an architect from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Architecture with a focus on the smaller scale. Has lamps in production at Le Klint, Arctecnica Inc and Watt a Lamp.

Jonas Edvard (born 1982) graduated from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Design. Focuses on developing sustainable materials and products, which he exhibits around the world.

Martine Myrup (born 1977) trained as a sculptor and artist at Glasgow School of Art. In recent years she has focused on upcycling vintage textiles and excess textiles from the industry.

Anne Tophøj (born 1960) trained as a ceramist at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Design and Pratt Institute, New York. Works with utilitarian products and one-offs – often with an emphasis on the meal and the related tools and utensils and on new production methods.

Laura Barüel (born 1975) graduated as a fashion designer from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Design. She uses nature as a source of inspiration for clothing collections, stage design, costumes, exhibitions and other products.

Brief introduction to the Danish Crafts Collection

Danish Crafts Collection presents a selection of the best contemporary Danish craft and design in international tradeshows and other commercial contexts. In 1999-2013, Danish Crafts Collection was organized by Danish Crafts. Under the political decision to merge Danish Crafts with the Danish Agency for Culture in January 2014, the collection continues under the aegis of the Danish Arts Foundation's Committee for Crafts and Design Project Funding with the Danish Agency for Culture serving as the secretariat.

The purpose of Danish Crafts Collection is to contribute to the ongoing effort to promote Danish craft and design internationally and to initiate a development for individual participants that may lead to a professional career on commercial terms – either based on the designer's own production or in cooperation with a manufacturer.

Read more about the products and the participants at www.craftscollection.dk