

PearlLam Design

DESIGN MIAMI/BASEL 2014

Stand G06

Hall 1 Süd, Messe Basel, Switzerland



Danful Yang, *Packing Me Softly* (2014), Hand embroidery on canvas foam
L-R: No. 12, 44.5 x 44.5 x 40 cm; No. 14, 33.5 x 33.5 x 35 cm; No. 13, 64.5 x 64.5 x 33.5 cm

Exhibition Dates

17–22 June, 2014

Press Conference and Preview (by invitation only): [Monday, 16 June, 2:30–5pm](#)

Vernissage (by invitation only): [Monday, 16 June, 5–8pm](#)

Pearl Lam Design is delighted to announce its return to the latest edition of **Design Miami/Basel** with works that reinvent 5,000 years of traditional Chinese arts and crafts by multidisciplinary designers from a variety of backgrounds, furthering the gallery's mission to foster cross-cultural dialogue between China and the West. By inviting international designers to travel to China to work with skilled local craftsmen, Pearl Lam Design encourages the cross-fertilisation of ideas, resulting in pieces that reflect China's social and economic condition through rich and provocative narratives. The stand will feature new specially commissioned pieces by Reinier Bosch, Studio Swine, Bouke de Vries, and Danful Yang, along with pieces by XYZ Design, Christian Ghion, and artist-drafter Pierre Marie Lejeune.

For over 20 years, Pearl Lam has been an advocate for design as an art form in China and around the world, inviting established and emerging designers, both international and local, to push the boundaries of traditional Chinese art and craft techniques, and create new works that embody their experiences in China. All of the works have been produced in China using traditional art and crafts—or reinventing them—with the exception of Pierre Marie Lejeune's sculptural pieces from Europe, and continue the galleries cultivation of Chinese philosophy and aesthetics in craftsmanship, while exploring Western perspectives of China.

Dutch designer Reinier Bosch's cabinets, table and mirror are inspired by the Miao people, a minority group in southern China, as well as the city of Shanghai. He began to conceive these works before graduating from the Design Academy Eindhoven in 2006. Bosch wanted to explore China's big cities and rural areas to gain a broader perspective on the entire country, which led him to the remote villages of the Miao tribe. He returned in 2011 upon being invited by Pearl Lam Design, and was surprised by how the government was transforming once quiet villages into tourist attractions. Through his collection, Bosch aims to pay homage to the traditional hand-woven fabrics, pleated skirts, and tribal culture of the Miao people. His cabinets are inspired by the structure of Miao houses, as well as Shanghai skyscrapers. The shape of Miao skirt pleats are incorporated into his aluminum table and steel mirror designs.

London-based Studio Swine's *Hair Highway* is a collection of objects that include a dressing table, stool, and accessories, which are all made up of a new composite material that the Studio created using human hair and a natural resin. The hard translucent material is reminiscent of tortoise shell and polished horn. *Hair Highway* explores the potential of hair, proposing a parallel between it and the ancient Silk Road, which facilitated cultural interaction between the East and West. The objects are inspired by Shanghai Art Deco and are made with traditional Chinese crafts.

Bouke de Vries gives damaged objects new narratives in his Guanyin porcelain sculptures outfitted with technological updates, using skills he developed and evolved as a ceramics conservator. The Dutch designer was struck by how an almost-invisible hairline crack or tiny rim chip could render a once-valuable object practically worthless. By reviving broken objects in a new way, he aims to instill in them new virtues. De Vries' works often reference art/history, as well as current issues.

Chinese designer Danful Yang's playful stools, titled *Packing Me Softly*, cast light on often-overlooked packing boxes by remaking them in luxurious embroidered silk. The packing box, which often protects precious contents, finally receives the respect it deserves instead of being carelessly tossed aside. Yang's *Sugar Town* features two versions of a wedding cake recreated in intricate white porcelain. While the porcelain flowers on one cake are blooming, the flowers on the other are withering, representing different states of marriage. The designer hopes the cakes will remind people to slow down in this fast-paced world and examine their relationships before they wither away.

The works of Pierre Marie Lejeune, a self-defined sculptor-drafter from Paris, lie at the intersection of design and sculpture. His self-described *poetic objects* are created with steel, glass, light, water or other raw materials, and are often site-specific and found in public spaces. At Design Miami/Basel, Lejeune will exhibit sculptural lights, a steel and epoxy lacquer desk, and chairs. Although produced in Europe, Lejeune's works embody the Chinese literati spirit of not discriminating between art and design.

Shanghai-based XYZ Design will present an assortment of tables, including a hexagonal coffee table and dining table, which feature unique forms. Paris-based Christian Ghion will exhibit his *Rattan Sofa*, which was first produced in China for an exhibition for the French Year in China in 2004. Ghion sees the work as an allegory of a Franco-Sino meeting with the sofa's two 'faces' converging in the centre. He hopes the sofa brings a message of peace and love to unite two cultures.

Pearl Lam, Founder, says: *"I am thrilled to be returning to Design Miami/Basel with works that cross the boundaries of art and design, and to debut several new pieces by international and Chinese designers who have been working with Chinese craftsmen using traditional techniques. Design Miami/Basel is a great platform to share the stories behind these works with a wide international audience, who are connoisseurs of both art and design."*

Pearl Lam, Danful Yang, Reinier Bosch, and Studio Swine will be available during the show for interviews upon request.

About Pearl Lam Design

Pearl Lam has tirelessly promoted design as an art form in China. She started exhibiting and promoting decorative art and design in 1993 in Hong Kong, mounting avant-garde exhibitions, which focused on building interdisciplinary and cross-cultural dialogues. From an early stage, popular touring shows such as *Awakening: La France Mandarine, the French Influence on Chinese Art* (2004–2005) brought attention to the value and significance of contemporary decorative art and design in China for the first time.

Pearl Lam Design is at the forefront of contemporary design in China. The gallery invites designers from across the world to create exclusive limited edition pieces, providing a platform for designers to participate in dynamic cultural exchanges between the East and West. The majority of these designers work with Chinese craftsmen to realise their creations, many of which are driven by narrative, and push the boundaries of traditional Chinese art and craft techniques.

Pearl Lam Design aims to illustrate the absence of segregation between fine art and design in traditional Chinese culture, where decorative art assimilates into fine art, modernity merges with traditions, and traditional values are still revered.

Pearl Lam Design works with Maarten Baas, Mattia Bonetti, Reinier Bosch, Patrice Butler, André Dubreuil, Christian Ghion, Studio Makkink & Bey, Studio Swine, Martin Szekely, Peter Ting, Bouke de Vries, Philip Michael Wolfson, XYZ Design, Danful Yang, and Michael Young, among others.

Press Enquiries

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