

May 15 - June 19

Down to Earth

Fransje Gimbrere
Willem van Hooff
Nienke Sikkema
Ward Wijnant
Nadja Schlenker
Tellurico
Lenny Stöpp
Studio Sho Ota
Francoise Jeffrey
Rollo Bryant
Fleur Hulleman
Benjamin Motoc
Olivier van der Mark
Studio Luuk van Laarhoven
Corradino Garofalo

HÅK GALLERY

Image: Melting Ceramics - Olivier van der

DOWN TO EARTH

Curated by Berry Dijkstra May 13th to June 19th 2022

Shåk gallery is delighted to host Down to earth, a group exhibition curated by Berry Dijkstra for which he arranged pieces of a new generation of designers based in the Netherlands. These include: Corradino Garofalo, Lenny Stopp, Fleur Hulleman, Benjamin Motoc, Rollo Bryant, Ward Wijnant, Studio Sho Ota, Willem van Hooff, Nienke Sikkema, Nadia Schlenker, Tellurico, Fransje Gimbrère, Olivier van der Mark, Françoise Jeffrey, and Studio Luuk van Laarhoven.

Dutch design became famous in the nineties and is still considered as cutting edge today. Nowadays with the new generation of designers who chooses to study at Dutch academies, Dutch design is becoming more diverse, inclusive and international. It is more up to date with the world we are living in today.

Down to earth references the Netherlands and its people.

While usually well known for their pragmatic and hands on attitude, it seems that, here, their scientific approach led the way to both otherworldly and primitive objects.

Contemporary design is very material driven. New ideas and forms only seem to emerge through research and experimentation. What's more, Berry Dijkstra selected designers who aim at finding the boundaries of matter; they try to defy gravity and to find a way to show the opposite of what one would expect of a material. For instance with Fransje Gimbrère the idea behind Standing textile is to give a new gravity, a divine gravity with its own rules that questions everything we take for granted.

With this exhibition, the curator shares his outtake on where design stands today. He is interested in combining worlds that are not easily combined. Indeed, it is the contrast between the ancient looking forms and the science fiction and out of space aesthetics that made this selection so very exciting. Those two seemingly opposite visions obviously go hand in hand.

In the end, it makes us wonder if we are looking at design or art and whether the distinction still makes sense.

The avant-garde never fails to give us a glimpse into the future.

Fransje Gimbrère

Fransje Gimbrère is a Design Artist, Concept Creator and Design Teacher from Tilburg, the textile city of The Netherlands.

She graduated from Design Academy Eindhoven in 2017 with her Standing Textile(s) and has been pursuing her career as Design Artist ever since.

By experimental and hands-on research Fransje hunts for new possibilities and applications of existing materials, crafts, and industrial production techniques.

Through engineering material behavior and manipulating image and shape, she influences the way matter is perceived and creates inspiring concepts and stimulating designs for clients and industry.

Fransje exhibits around the world her autonomous work, creates commissioned and site-specific pieces, and works as a freelance creative director, art director, designer, researcher, and consultant for clients in a wide variety of fields.



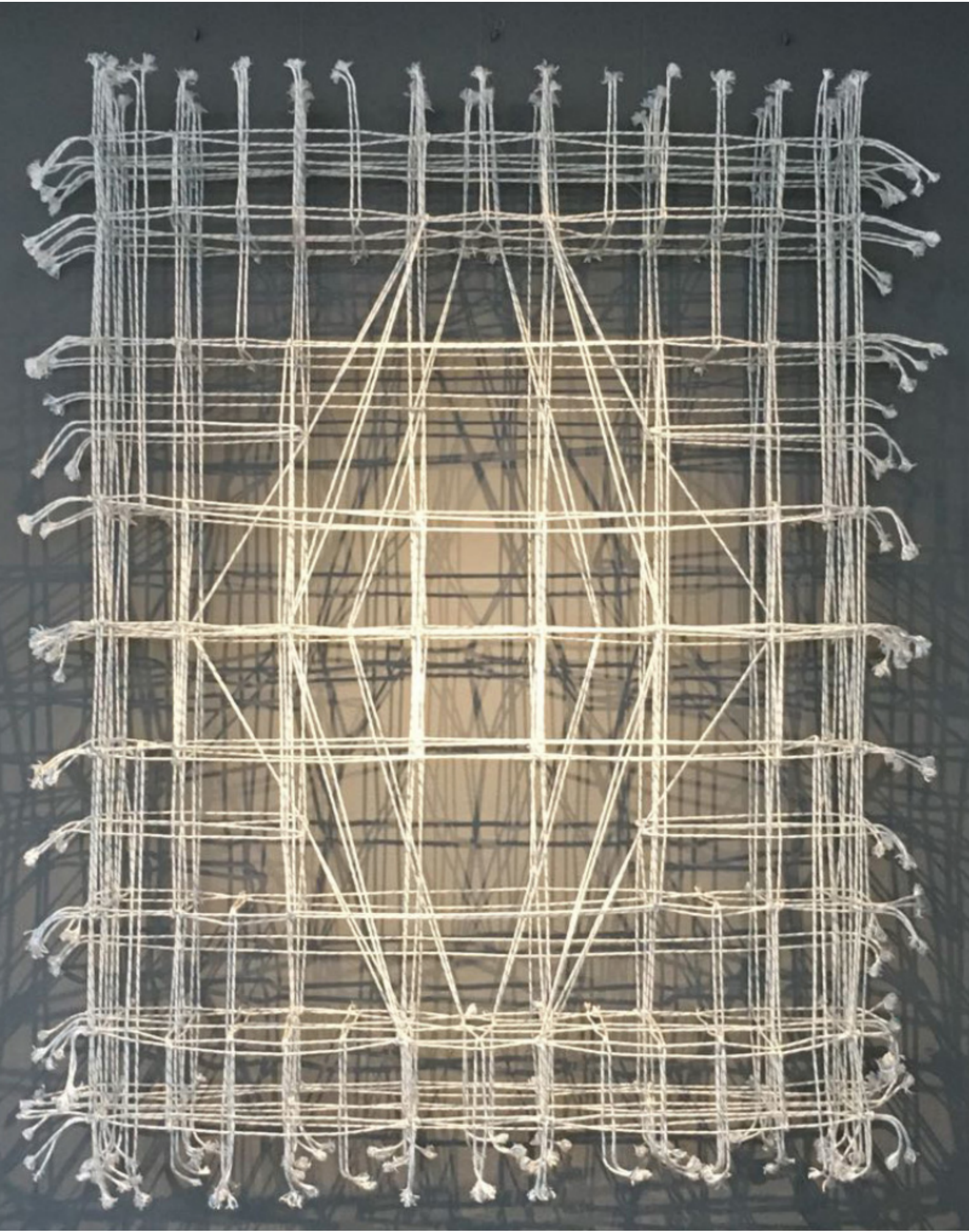


Standing Textile(s) – Acoustic Edition – Rae:
Recycled PP, resin, recycled paper, biodegradable glue
L 70 x B 70 x D 25

Standing Textile(s) – Persian White:

Recycled PET, resin

L 180 x B 160 x D 40



Willem van Hooff



The dutch designer Willem van Hooff considers himself a new kind of craftsman.

As soon as he graduated from the Design Academy in Eindhoven in 2018, he opened a design studio.

Inspired by primitive, prehistorical or authentic ancient art, he likes the little imperfections and unevenness of the art pieces rather than the very smooth and bland modern productions.

He usually uses traditional machinery, methods, and existing products. He endeavors to give his work that rustic yet minimalist aspect that has become his trademark...

Raba

Glazed Ceramic

H40 x W35 x D12 cm



Till

Glazed ceramic

H68 x W32 x D10 cm



Nienke Sikkema

After studying history and journalism at the University of Amsterdam, Nienke Sikkema graduated from the Royal Academy of Arts in the Hague.

She started working at the Oude Horn, the glassblowing studio of Bernard Heesen. There she learned the craft of glassblowing and started executing her own designs in glass.

She describes her way of working as 'playing with glass'.

She lets the glass drip, stacks it and rolls it into a candleholder or sculpts animals with it. As long as the glass allows it and the material doesn't have to be forced. Shape, color, transparency and shimmer, all the qualities that glass possesses are used in her designs. Hopefully this way people will recognize the fun of the making process in the objects that emerge from it".





3 arm candelabra-mint
Handblown glass
H 52 x 43 cm
Unique

5 arm candelabra-amber
Handblown glass
H 51 x 34 cm
Unique



Ward Wijnant



Ward Wijnant (1987, Tilburg) started out at the Wood and Furniture College, where he developed his furniture making techniques and a wide knowledge about materials. He continued his career at the Design Academy Eindhoven where he graduated as an independent designer.

He started his own company in 2015. Ward's work is characterized by experimenting with materials. It is his mission to interpret the diversity of methods and materials and translate them in contemporary designs that pay attention to detail and finish. The element of surprise is of essence in his work.

CHUNK-candleholder-Lilac
Pressed Tinfoil
H 50.5 x 28.5 cm



CHUNK-candleholder-silver
Pressed Tinfoil
H 50.5 x 28.5 cm





CHUNK-Basket
Pressed Tinfoil
H 13.5 x 39 cm

Nadja Schlenker



Nadja Schlenker (1989) graduated from the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam, where she currently works and lives.

Schlenker's works range from small objects to large-scale, spatial installations. A great source of inspiration for her work is travel, from which she always returns with photographs that enrich her image archive, which she uses as reference points for new ideas. Empty streets, buildings and landscapes dominate the photographs; they show building blocks, architectural details, façade textures and always leave it to the viewer to imagine the people who have stayed there. She's lived in Bangkok, Beirut and Rome and is drawn to the many stories that unfold every day in the houses and streets. In her studio, she brings together the energy of different places, encounters and picks out elements to translates them into her own urban landscapes. Her curiosity for different views and perspectives is reflected in her interest in material research as well, testing the possibilities and limits of materials and techniques from ceramics to paper sculpting and working with building materials. She works at the intersection of architecture, design and art and likes to play with the perception of objects. Whether the works are sculptures or functional pieces is often left up to the viewer.

Fragment Vase #5

Glazed Ceramics

28 x 30 x H33 cm



Fragment Vase #3

Glazed Ceramic

29 x 30 x H49 cm



Tellurico

After graduating with a Masters of Contextual Design at Design Academy of Eindhoven, in 2017, Francesco Pace founded Tellurico, a multidisciplinary design studio specializing in objects, spaces and installation design.

The investigation of alternative solutions through the study of folklore, together with the relationship between crafts and the environment has been the centre of Tellurico's practice.

The context in which a project is born has been the primary focus of years of research. What binds the objects of a place to the characteristic of the place itself intertwines the historical, geological and social aspects of humankind, as well as the uniqueness and simplicity of every-day life. It is an always expanding field of investigation, as endless are the ways to live.

In 2020 Tellurico has been nominated by Platform Magazine among the Best Italian Designers.

In 2021 Tellurico won the prestigious Officine Saffi Awards with his project Telluride

So far, Tellurico's works have been presented in many international venues such as Biennale of Architecture in Venice, Van Abbe Museum in Eindhoven, M.A.D.RE. in Naples, Triennale di Milano, Brohan Museum in Berlin, Beirut Design Fair, Italian Pavilion in Barcelona, Zoya Gallery in Bratislava and others. He works closely with private clients and received commissions from different galleries such as Palau de Casavells in Barcelona, Mint London, Camp Design Gallery and Functional Art Gallery in Madrid.

Tellurico lives and works in the Netherlands.

Stool 00

Handcarved solid-Wood, beeswax finish, 2019

H53 x 45 x 50cm





S-Side Table (yellow)
Composite Jesmonite Coating, polystyrene, 2021
H52 x 40 x 38 cm

Lenny Stöpp



During my design process I have a hands-on approach. My work is shaped by repurposing existing techniques. By researching and experimenting with these techniques, I give it a new value. My perfection in the design process is looking for a raw refinement. In the outcome of the design, I find it important that the human action remains visible. This gives a product character and makes it more personal.

Cornice Vessels

Cornice is an ongoing collection of vessels that are made by using the traditional technique of running cornice. The production method is used to make plaster ornaments for interiors and exteriors. By making a hollow mold and replacing the traditional plaster for an alpha crystalline gypsum the ornaments can be used as vessels. The running cornice process offers the possibility to reproduce each vessel. When using the method there is a variation in roughness and refinement. This makes each vessel unique.

Cornice Vessel, Rib 16X, Thin, Yellow
Hard Plaster
H 30 X D 12 cm



Cornice Vessel, Rib 16X, Thin, Tall, Yellow
Hard Plaster
H 40 X D 12 cm

Cornice Vessel, Rib 12X, Thin, Gray Mint
Hard Plaster
H 30 X D 12 cm



Cornice Vessel, Rib 12X, Sturdy, Tall, Gray Mint
Hard Plaster
H 30 X D 18 cm



Cornice Vessel, Rib 16X, Thin, Dark Green
Hard Plaster
H 34 X D 12 cm



Cornice Vessel, Rib 12X, Sturdy, Gray Mint
Hard Plaster
H 30 X D 18 cm

Studio Sho Ota

Sho Ota is a Japanese designer based in Eindhoven NL. After graduation from Design Academy Eindhoven with an MA of Contextual Design in 2018, he started his own design studio there. Before coming to the Netherlands, he had been working as a designer and prototype maker at a wooden furniture manufacturer in Japan.

According to the Grain

This project highlights the quality of wood grain, which character is often neutralized in industrial processing. By chiseling down from a flat surface and chiseling out the knots, its three dimensionality and texture are brought out and its unique materiality becomes palpable to the casual viewer. The surface can now reveal more secrets and help the user imagine what this material once looked like in its natural state.





Dish
Swiss Pine
30 x 23 x H4cm



Dish 2
Swiss Pine
34 x 17 x H4cm

Françoise Jeffrey



Born: 1970

Hometown: Amsterdam

Based In: Amsterdam

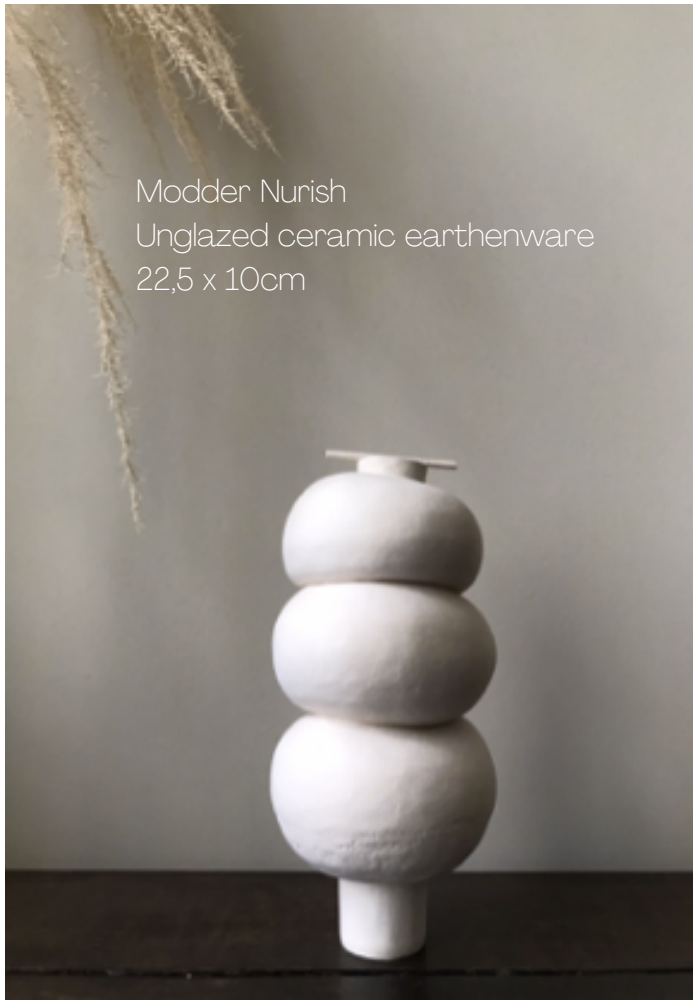
"Soil touching souls"

My ceramics are hand made by me, coil built, organically shaped and unique in their own imperfect way. I love basic and timeless design, so that's what you may expect from my work.

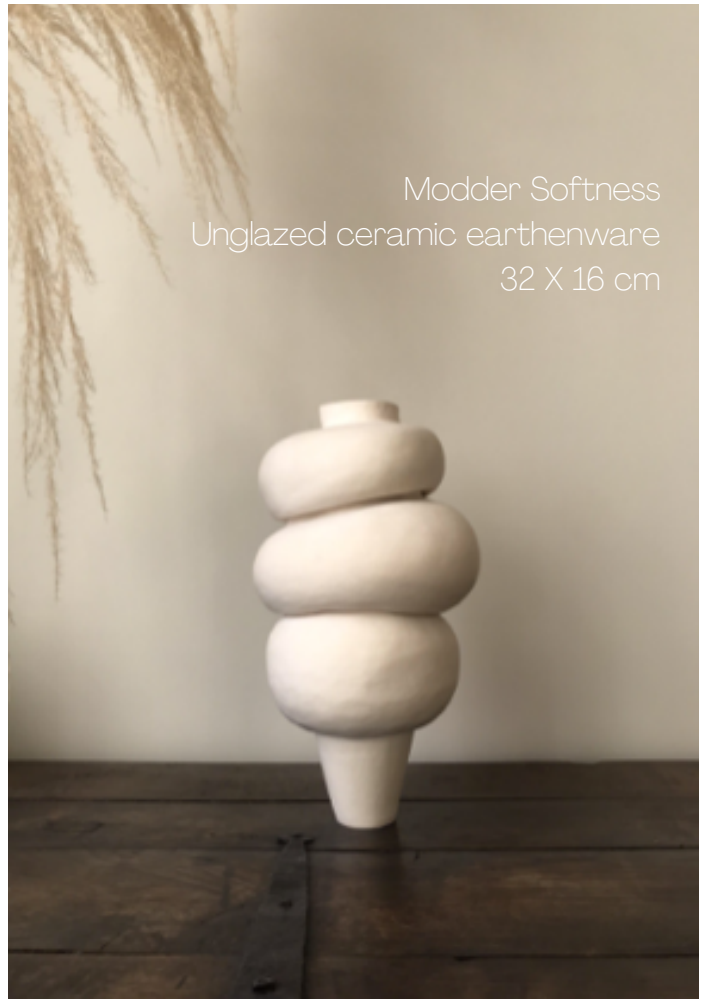
Less is more... However, I do like to make a statement from time to time. For me, the beauty in design is not only minimalistic and pure. But in a subtle way, bold too. That means my objects are mostly off white, brown or black, without any glaze and preferably a bit bigger than average.



Modder Nurish
Unglazed ceramic earthenware
22,5 x 10cm



Modder Softness
Unglazed ceramic earthenware
32 X 16 cm



Modder Balancing
Unglazed ceramic earthenware
38 X 10,5 cm



Rollo Bryant



From embracing craft in the digital age, Rollo Bryant specialises in working techniques that merge freehand sculpting with computational software. Focused on projects that create positive environmental change, while promoting the idea that even with this new challenge, design can still be as appealing and versatile, if not more so.

With a distinct focus on material and lighting innovation, Rollo's goal is to create works that change perception, invite intrigue and raise poignant topical discussion. His fascination with naturally formed organic structures has led to an aesthetic identity of similar character and taste.

Optimistic about design intervention as a means to address ecological neglect, Rollo's most recent project 'Urban Stem', attempts to bring this conversation into the spotlight, by imagining a future where we are brought closer to the biosphere. Highlighting a number of key problems with the ways we light our cities, the project explores ideas to mitigate our impact and prioritise an alternate agenda for urban design.



Della
Sand, Polyvinyl Acetate, Polylactide
28 x 28 x 120 cm

Fleur Hulleman



As a Sculptural Designer, Fleur aims to create intriguing projects to offer surprising, sensational and tactile products to stimulate imagination. To convey the power of colour, material and texture to reawaken a more sensual relationship with objects and satisfy our inherent desire for tactility, softness and comfort. Through sculptural objects Fleur often unravel the sensory and emotional individual experience of touch and what this may induce.

Fleur has exhibited in several expositions such as BLOOT/ Museum Kranenburgh (Oct 2018/ Jan 2019), DDW (from 2017 to 2021) Salone del Mobile / Dutch Invertuals (2018) and more. She gets invited to give talks and workshops among material and sensuality. Such as Sexperience workshop Material & Tactility / Fontys of Fine and Performing Arts, Studium Generale Arnhem Artez / SEX & The Sexual Politics of the Gaze (2018) and the Book release /Holy Fuck (2018). She executed assignments as a Colour Material and Finishing designer for Philips (2020 / 2022). Her work is sold in luxurious shops such as Browns Fashion (London), Wandler (Amsterdam and CEMENT store (Tokyo).

The image features three ceramic sculptures against a dark background. On the left is a large, light green, pear-shaped sculpture with a smooth, slightly textured surface. In the center is a smaller, light brown, teardrop-shaped sculpture with a smooth surface. On the right is a smaller, light green, rounded sculpture with a rough, pebbled texture. The sculptures are arranged in a row, with the light green one on the left, the light brown one in the middle, and the light green one on the right. The lighting is dramatic, coming from the left, casting long shadows to the right.

Lil Pearl
Earthenware + Magic Finishing
H 27 X W 15 cm

Bumped Pale Flour
Earthenware + Magic Finishing
H 27 X W 15 cm

Boob Dusty Green
Earthenware + Magic Finishing
H 14 X W 11 cm

Olivier van der Mark

Olivier (1999) is an Eindhoven-based artist and designer. He has recently graduated from Design Academy Eindhoven.

In his studio, he focuses on working with ceramics in an explorative and research-based manner. This method of working helps and informs him to create functional objects, which have an interesting layer of materiality and form.



Black segment 3 vase
Unglazed Ceramic
H 60 X W 15 cm



Black segment 2 vase
Unglazed Ceramic
H 40 X W 15 cm

Red segment 2 vase
Unglazed Ceramic
H 40 X W 15 cm



Red segment 3 vase
Unglazed Ceramic
H 60 X W 15 cm



Benjamin Motoc



French artist designer,
located in The Netherlands,
graduated 2020 from
the Design Academy Eindhoven.

Activating concepts by exploring the
potential of materials, Benjamin Motoc
keeps the aesthetics of his works in close
conversation with the production process.



Syll, 2019
Cast Aluminium
L21x W12x H38 cm

Ktus, 2019
Cast Aluminium
W14 x L8 x H33cm





Kron, 2019
Cast Bronze
W50x L60 x H75cm

Studio Luuk van Laarhoven

In 2016 Luuk van Laarhoven graduated from The Design Academy Eindhoven. Projects that originated from landscapes, natural processes and pure materials are analysed and translated into objects and products.

With a penchant for craftsmanship and the process of making, everything is realized within the studio.



Burned floor Lamp, 2022

Metal Tubes with a LED light. Striped burned pattern is applied

H130 x D26 cm

Edition of 10



Corradino Garofalo



Corradino Garofalo is a designer living and working in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. His practice focuses on the relationship between individuals and society, with a particular interest in exploring the role cultural values play in characterizing human relations and interactions within social groups.

Garofalo's research treads the thin line between geographical and anthropological contexts, using metaphors and analogies as the foundation of his design framework. His fascination for film, photography, video projections and video installations has led him to take an interdisciplinary approach towards design.



Partenopea table, 2022
Neapolitan Yellow Tuff, Steel
H 42 X L 42 x W 70 cm

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