

# yksiconnectexpo



Press Release, 5 January 2018

## EMBRACING EXCHANGE

**The multi-annual programme EMBRACING EXCHANGE aims to connect Dutch and German designers, makers and cultural institutes. During Passagen Interior Design Week 2018, EMBRACING EXCHANGE is organizing a designers' exhibition and a matchmaking event at gallery 'ampersand', Venloer Str. 24 in Cologne from 15-01-2018 to 21-01-2018.**

### ABOUT THE DESIGNERS

#### Grivec Bros

Today, Amsterdam is known as the 'jeans capital of the world'. However, Marcel and Roger Grivec would like to point out, that in the Netherlands - initially - the first jeans were sold to mine workers in Kerkrade (Limburg). Their family started a pioneering jeans store in Chevremont, which they took over themselves in 1989. Recently, the twin brothers have developed their own denim brand. "Our slow fashion indigo products reflect the simple strength and quit dignity of a dry denim in a classic cut with authentic details which differs them from other brands." – <http://www.grivecbros.com>

#### Rene Holten

René Holten studied at the Academy of Arts in Maastricht and the Design Academy Eindhoven. After having started to work in the field of architecture, very soon he developed a dedicated focus on product design. Today he runs his own design firm, working for international clients like Artifort (furniture) and Clou (sanitary design). The MOOD chair is designed as a sleekly-upholstered bucket seat with five different bases and four different upholstery styles. MOOD offers a variety of colour and fabric options to suit a wide range of interior styles. The base with the steel strip is carefully cut out of a sheet of stainless steel. It is shaped into a curved base that has a great stiffness. It is strong, subtle and thin at the same time. – <http://www.reneholten.nl>

#### Paul Koenen

Paul Koenen grew up next to a heap of burned mining stones in Kerkrade. Fifty years after the closing of the Limburg coalmines, Koenen developed the idea to use red mining stone granulate as material for public furniture. These benches function as a 'memorial monument' in public space. The material functions as a storyteller in the most tangible way. It tells the story of the region in an unexpected, innovative and elegant design. - <http://www.paulkoenen.com>

---

### **José Maase and Mireille Meijs**

José Maase and Mireille Meijs together form the designing force at Royal MOSA in Maastricht. They are responsible for the Mosa collection of ceramic tiles for walls, floors and facades. Their latest creation, the ceramic tile series Mosa  $\mu$  [mu], offers a new way to define time and space. The tile series cleverly responds to a setting's changing light. The surface subtly shifts shades during the course of the day. The design is inspired by the versatile relationship between illumination and the colour spectrum. – <http://www.mosa.nl>

### **Dirk Ploos van Amstel**

Dirk Ploos van Amstel is a product designer with a strong focus on 'open' design processes. In his work approach, he searches to establish a serious involvement of the enduser. The Maastricht-based designer puts in his knowledge and experimental spirit in to the field of materials and material processing, in order to develop clear and unambiguous solutions, that characterize his award-winning style. – <http://www.dirkploosvanamstel.nl>

### **Tanja Schell**

Tanja Schell is a 'scent-architect' and founder of 'Geurlab'. She uses fragrance to define and shape spaces. The invisible, but forceful dimension of fragrance has a significant impact on spatial perception. This is not only the case in interior spaces, scent can also help to 'shape' the public space. "With fragrance, the physical world remains as a gray flat surface without atmosphere, identity and recognizability. Odor is not only the etheric bridge between humans and the outside world, odor is also the key to our intimate inner world where memories and emotions are stored. Fragrance brings us back in time and can bring long lost memories back. It's the key to our most intimate piece of self." - <http://www.geurlab.com>

### **Christoph Seyferth**

Christoph Seyferth (Serener) eschews the belief that good design must come from big egos. His products are humane and functional, designed for everyday use. The designer from Maastricht has a background in fine arts, carpentry, architecture, interior design, as well as furniture design. His work ([www.functionals.eu](http://www.functionals.eu)) has a certain timeless quality, referencing the integrity of thoughtful craftsmanship and celebrating the essence of pure materials like wood, leather, and steel. - <http://www.seyferth.nl>

### **Fabian von Spreckelsen**

Fabian von Spreckelsen is a German artist based in Maastricht. As a child, he already had a deep fascination for nature, handed out by his father, who was a biologist. "My creations translate the power lines of flora and fauna into abstract geometries, embodying both strength and beauty of wildlife in its simplest form, sometimes to the edge of recognition. The lines in my work are clear-cut and simplified; my hand-crafted approach creates unique pieces, each with their own specific personality." For his project 'The Very Last Big Tuna', Von Spreckelsen is working together with WELLCOLL to develop a new coating for his sculpture. - <http://www.fabianvonspreckelsen.com>

### **Anastasia Eggers**

Designer and researcher Anastasia Eggers scrutinises the absurdity of a slowly growing phenomenon called 'food nativism': a top-down imposed resistance to foreign gastronomy due to national pride in culinary traditions. The question of how those traditions were

constructed is often being ignored. Through the journey of a fictional character 'Sonya' in the year 2032, Anastasia Eggers uncovers different aspects of cheese making. She demonstrates that geographical parameters are not the only aspects that influence taste. Psychology and nostalgia play an important role as well. - <http://www.anastasiaeggers.com>

### **WooJai Lee**

WooJai Lee likes to work with different materials, experimenting and exploring their hidden potentials. He works in both constructional and sculptural ways, mixing the qualities of the two to create a unique style of works. The Alchemist's Furniture is series of furniture which explores the transformation of a material into another element. Paper is sculpted into branch like structures which has the aesthetics of a marbled stone, while having the tactility of both rough stone and soft paper. Just like an alchemist would, a lifeless material from old newspapers have been given a new life as a furniture of another element. – <http://www.woojai.com>

### **Agne Kucerenkaite**

Agne Kucerenkaite focuses on combining design and material research. She is driven by society related issues and different cultures, where the context is essential. She loves to work with raw materials and colors and tries to mix contradistinctions like scientific and natural, logical and intuitive, controlled and experimental, new and old. Agne is currently busy with an ongoing project about reusing metal waste from the industries like water and soil remediation companies and applying it to materials as a colorant. - <http://www.agne-k.com>

### **Daria Biryukova**

Daria Biryukova is design alchemist with a fascination of experimenting with waste and secondary raw materials. She is searching for smart, sustainable and beautiful solutions for everyday life. She has designed different objects from furniture to tableware, as well as ceramic glazes. - <http://www.biryukovadesign.com>

### **Pao Hui Kao**

Pao Hui Kao is a designer, researcher and artist. Her works show influences of innovated material, traditional crafts, social issues and ecorches. By making objects, sculptures and installations, her works emphasize on creating extraordinary aesthetics out of ordinary material and surroundings through continuous material experiments. Pao Hui Kao expresses her peculiar viewpoint on contemporary issues such as uncanny of technology, appearance and functionality. She is questioning and seeking for the 'essence of things'. <http://www.paohuikao.com>

---

**Note for the editor (not for publication):** For more information about the exhibition and / or marketing material please contact:

Yksi Connect / ++31-(0)40-7805034 / ++31-(0)6-10573108- [connect@yksi.nl](mailto:connect@yksi.nl) - [www.yksiexpo.nl](http://www.yksiexpo.nl)

**Yksi Expo** organizes exhibitions to mainly highlight the work of Dutch designers.

**Yksi Connect** connects designers with the industry, provides inspiration, gives directions and resolves issues.

They draw their strength from collaborations and cross-fertilizations. In addition, Leonne Cuppen curates, designs and realizes exhibitions that can be seen in other places in the world, from Beijing to Barcelona and from Moscow to Madrid.