

A PALAZZO GALLERY

è lieta di presentare

Philippe Malouin, Orsina Sforza

On the occasion of the forthcoming Salone del Mobile exhibition A Palazzo Gallery is pleased to present the work of two contemporary designers, Philippe Malouin and Orsina Sforza.

The Gallery is the place where culture, research and artistic pathways meet, communicate and influence one another. On the occasion of this show, too, the language boundaries are blurred, leaving space for the artistic creations of two internationally famous artists

The 30year-old designer, Philippe Malouin, Canadian by birth but a Londoner by adoption, sees functionality as the essential quality for an object, and always much more significant and important than beauty. "We live at a time characterised by new engaging demands of a practical nature for the designer; above all, lack of space."

The pieces on display are entirely assembled by hand and form part of a series of objects (lamps, tables and shelves) in some way "weightless" – *Gridlock* – born from assemblages of plaster and brass lattice. The attention to tactile and modular qualities is a clear reference to utopian planners such as Buckminster Fuller, Cedric Price and Yona Friedman and to the architecture of the 60s and 70s. To all this Malouin adds autobiographical references to his city of origin (Montreal, Canada) and of adoption (London): both cities in fact have an important collection of modernist and brutalist architecture, and it is to this heritage that the designer refers.

Malouin's challenge to sustainability is clearly seen in the carpet *Yachiyo*, a practically indestructible piece that entails thousands of hours of hand crafting. The metallic carpet *Yachiya*, exhibited for the first time at the 2011 furniture show (*'Salone del Mobile'*), and now displayed at A Palazzo, is a carpet intended to last for ever and accordingly woven from three kilometres of galvanised wire during 3000 hours of manual artistry.

The objects designed by Orsina Sforza, Milanese by birth, but Roman by adoption, are neither lamps nor sculptures. They are luminous, sumptuous, fiery as well as flowery and joyful creations, always unpredictable and dangerously balanced between pop and kitsch, but at the same time offering an unexpected and surprisingly formal effect.

Her lamps are unique handmade pieces which use coloured paper, sewn material, rags, light containers, which all interact among themselves and with the surrounding space: in this way the light becomes decoration.

On show are works from the series: Marie Antoinette, Nijinsky, Bernini, and Sposa

Opening Tuesday 3 April 6 pm
3 April - 19 May 2012

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