



MAK

Press Release

EOOS wins the Silver Black Bee Award for Austria at the XXII Triennale di Milano

The contribution *CIRCULAR FLOWS: The Toilet Revolution!*, funded by the Federal Chancellery and commissioned by the MAK, convinced even among contributions from 22 countries

The Austrian contribution *CIRCULAR FLOWS: The Toilet Revolution!*, submitted to the XXII Triennale di Milano (1 March – 1 September 2019) was awarded the Silver Black Bee Award. EOOS convinced the jury with a direct reference to this year's Triennale motto *Broken Nature: Design Takes on Human Survival*, which was achieved in the Austrian pavilion. Embedded in a multimedia installation, EOOS presents the revolutionary urine separation toilet prototype: the *Urine Trap* provides a systemic design solution for one of the most pressing environmental issues of our time, the polluting of our waters through nitrogen. For the entries from a total of 22 participating countries from all continents three awards were presented – Gold for Australia, Silver for Austria, and Bronze for Russia.

The Triennale di Milano, which already took place from 1936 to 1996 and which restarted in 2016, is considered to be the world's most important exhibition in the field of design biennials and triennials. "The prize is a great pleasure for all who contributed to the revolution of the toilet," said EOOS – Martin Bergmann, Gernot Bohmann and Harald Gruendl – pleased to have received the prestigious award. "With EOOS's installation and the digital animation from Process Studio, we are, in a poetic way, making the complex nitrogen cycle that can be repaired through the design innovation of the *Urine Trap* visible for the visitors. I am very happy that our contribution to *Broken Nature* has been honored with this great award!" says the curator of the Austrian contribution Marlies Wirth, MAK Curator, Digital Culture and Design Collection.

„EOOS is one of the most exciting design studios of our time when it comes to social and sustainable design. EOOS are lateral thinkers and visionaries who have once again succeeded in tackling an environmental policy issue with a realizable, revolutionary design and conveying it in an aesthetically sophisticated way,“ says Christoph Thun-Hohenstein, General Director of the MAK and commissioner of Austria's contribution to the XXII Triennale di Milano, who promotes debate on the central role of design in contributing to positive ecological, social, and economic change in the MAK.

CIRCULAR FLOWS: The Toilet Revolution! presents the *Urine Trap* in a toilet developed jointly with LAUFEN, embedded in a multimedia installation (by Process Studio, Vienna, with a lighting installation by Zumtobel), which illustrates the ecological interplay of coastal waters, sewage systems, and agriculture. The basis was developed in years of research work carried out for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation by the Swiss “Eawag: The Water Research Institute of ETH Domain” under the direction of environmental engineer Tove Larsen, while EOOS is responsible for the design of the *Urine Trap*.

As an internationally active design studio that works and received awards for brands like Adidas, Armani, bulthaup, Walter Knoll, LAUFEN, Herman Miller, Zumtobel, and many more, EOOS has been dedicated to projects in social and sustainable design—most recently at the 15th International Architecture Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia 2016 and the VIENNA BIENNALE 2017.

The official Austrian contribution to the XXII Triennale di Milano was sponsored by the Austrian Federal Chancellery, commissioned by the MAK, and curated by Marlies Wirth, MAK Curator of Digital Culture and the MAK Design Collection.

Details on the XXII Triennale di Milano *Broken Nature: Design Takes on Human Survival* can be found at triennale.org, brokennature.org.

Photo material at MAK.at/en/press for download.

Funding:
Bundeskanzleramt Österreich
MAK – Museum for Applied Arts, Vienna

With support from
Eawag – Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Tove Larsen)
Österreichisches Kulturforum Mailand
LAUFEN
Zumtobel

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Vienna, 1 March 2019