

Press Release

MAYFLY **Functional Collages**

Opening	Tuesday, 19 October 2021, 7 p.m.
Exhibition Venue	MAK GALLERY MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna
Exhibition Dates	20 October – 21 November 2021
Opening Hours	Tue 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Wed–Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

With project *MAYFLY: Functional Collages*, the young designers Anton Defant and Benjamin Nagy bring circular design and circular waste management to the MAK GALLERY. With discarded materials, they design new, functional, and usable objects, the life cycles of which begin in the waste—so there, where thrown out objects or components lose their function. Defant and Nagy show how much potential material from the garbage dump can offer, for example, with a shelf made of a drain covers, a chair designed from a former server rack, or a fancy floor lamp that served as a metal shelf in its former life cycle.

In *MAYFLY*, Defant and Nagy turn the traditional allocation of roles between author and producer upside down: The objects are not planned ahead but are exclusively defined by the elements and materials currently available. The “salvaged” components are redesigned using as few tools as possible and without radically changing the material. The designers entirely let themselves be led by the principle of improvisation.

The objects are presented in a display which draws, on the one hand, on the metaphor of a sandbox as a place to play and experiment and, on the other hand, on almost archetypical actions already instinctively practiced by children: stacking, molding with bare hands, or folding of three-dimensional objects. The material takes on a form and is again destroyed while always remaining in the cycle.

Their fast, autonomous processing gives the *MAYFLY* objects a playful immediacy. Thus, the designers also take up the discussion, which already arose in the 1960s and 1970s, on the advancing separation of creative idea and industrial production. In his handbook on

“self-design” (*Autoprogettazione?*, Edizioni Corraini, Milan 1974), the world-famous Italian designer Enzo Mari already prophetically predicted today’s questions regarding open-source design and co-creation processes.

With growing awareness of the consequences of the linear economic model, which has been prevailing since industrialization, circular design principles are now increasingly taking center stage: Reusing or recycling of used material as well as zero waste approaches have found their way into architecture and design under the term “circular design.”

Designers not only have the possibility of raising consumer wishes and fulfilling them, but they can also react to the capacity of resources and utilization cycles with sustainable design. This is precisely what Anton Defant and Benjamin Nagy aim for with *MAYFLY*: They question the potentials of scarcity in a world after overabundance and inspire a re-evaluation of “waste material.”

MAYFLY is part of the MAK program for the VIENNA ART WEEK and directly refers to this year’s topic *Losing Control*. With this topic, the ART WEEK addresses two scenarios currently dominating our everyday lives: the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate crisis. Climate change was also the dominating topic of this year’s VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE 2021 initiated by the MAK.

In the context of the VIENNA ART WEEK, the MAK is inviting to a Dialogue Tour of the exhibition *MAYFLY: Functional Collages* with the designers Anton Defant and Benjamin Nagy as well as Marlies Wirth, Curator, Digital Culture and MAK Design Collection, on Tuesday, 16 November 2021.

Press photos available for download at [MAK.at/en/press](https://www.mak.at/en/press).

Press Data

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Curator Marlies Wirth, Curator, Digital Culture and
MAK Design Collection
Dialogue Tour In the context of the VIENNA ART WEEK
Tuesday, 16 November 2021, 6 p.m.,
with the designers Anton Defant and Benjamin Nagy
as well as Curator Marlies Wirth
MAK Admission € 14 / Reduced € 11 / Family Ticket € 15
Every Tuesday 6–9 p.m.: admission € 6
Free admission for children and teens under 19
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