



Press Release

APPLIED ARTS. NOW
MARCO DESSÍ. STILL LIFE

A Cooperation of MAK and University of Applied Arts

Opening	Tuesday, 29 January 2013, 7 p.m.
Venue	MAK Furniture Study Collection Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna
Exhibition Dates	30 January – 5 May 2013
Opening Hours	Tues 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Wed–Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Free admission on Tuesdays 6–10 p.m.

STILL LIFE communicates an unusual, personal approach to the works and working process of designer Marco Dessí. A large display will form the stage for a comprehensive selection of previously realized projects plus a series of prototypes developed specifically for this MAK exhibition, where they will be displayed for the first time. This programmatically entitled exhibition functions as a contemplative snapshot in time, presenting Dessí's designs in light of substantive, emblematic, and aesthetic contexts.

Designs and objects that give rise to logically coherent combinations of functionality and emotion characterize this South Tirolean designer's oeuvre. With his Viennese design studio, which he founded in 2007, Dessí collaborates with international companies such as Richard Lampert and Skitsch, as well as with longstanding Viennese firms like J. & L. Lobmeyr, Wiener Silber Manufaktur, and the Viennese Porcelain Manufactory Augarten.

With its multi-platform design, *STILL LIFE* evokes an interior ambience and integrates a number of previously produced works, including the glass-and-brass chandelier *Basket* (for Lobmeyr, 2010); the glass service *Grip* (for Lobmeyr, 2009), reminiscent of the "American Bar" design by Adolf Loos; the stackable *Prater Chair* made of CNC-shaped birch plywood (for Richard Lampert, presented in Milan in 2009), which was the first piece of furniture that Dessí designed; the furniture collection *Dakar* for the Italian company Skitsch (2011, chairs and tables made of powder-coated aluminum); and the outdoor chair *Take Off* (2012, cloth and metal).

Dessí's newly developed prototypes are surprising for their unexpected choices of materials and aesthetics. On display will be items such as round occasional tables made of the treadplate-patterned sheet metal typically reserved for stairs and ramps, a chair with a backrest made of stretched hide, a sensitive reinterpretation of simple shelving brackets, and a wardrobe combining wood and metal. Alongside all this, specific details of objects and selected inspirational materials will be featured in order to help visitors visualize and comprehend the designer's creative process.

References to the minimalist solutions of Viennese Modernism or to French architect and designer Jean Prouvé, who came up with pioneering new developments in furniture design oriented toward mass production techniques, are just as characteristic of Dessí's oeuvre as is his playful relationship with current design ideals. Though his works do allude to a classical aesthetic, unexpected design elements clearly signal their belonging to a new generation.

Following completion of an apprenticeship as a dental technician, Marco Dessí (*1976, Merano, Italy) studied industrial design under Bořek Šípek and Paolo Piva at the University of Applied Arts Vienna; several of his projects as a student there attracted international attention. Immediately following graduation from the university in 2007, he opened his own design studio (marcodessi.com).

APPLIED ARTS. NOW

Marco Dessí. STILL LIFE is the fourth solo presentation in the exhibition series *APPLIED ARTS. NOW*, which is intended to create a platform for contemporary forms of applied art and thus provide greater visibility for particularly interesting artistic stances originated by graduates of the University of Applied Arts Vienna living and working in Austria. The series was kicked off with the exhibition *PATRICK RAMPELOTTO. Adventures in Foam* (25 January–26 May 2012), followed by *STIEFEL & COMPANY ARCHITECTS. Faux Terrains* (23 May–16 September 2012) and *taliaYsebastian. The Committee of Sleep* (3 October 2012–6 January 2013).

MAK on Display

Inspired by the reinstallation of the *VIENNA 1900. Viennese Arts and Crafts, 1890–1938* section of the MAK Permanent Collection, Marco Dessí reinterpreted the Wiener Werkstätte's *Salon Cabinet for a Reception Salon* by Dagobert Peche. The intervention *Marco Dessí: Dagobert Peche Revisited, 1913/2012* occupies a prominent location at Wien Mitte – The Mall, thus opening up a “display window” of sorts on the MAK.

Images relating to the exhibition are available for download at MAK.at/press



Press Fact Sheet

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Curator	Marlies Wirth
Supporting Program	Discussions of the exhibition with artist and curator Tue, 19 February 2013, 6 p.m. Tue, 23 April 2013, 6 p.m.
MAK Admission	€ 7.90 / reduced: € 5.50 / Family ticket € 11 Free admission for children and teens up to 19
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Vienna, 18 January 2013