

## **Nilufar – Design City Edition 2020**

### **Press Release**

Nilufar presents exceptional new projects that reinterpret the gallery spaces in via della Spiga and Nilufar Depot in viale Lancetti.

#### **NILUFAR DEPOT**

Viale Lancetti 34

Nina Yashar has decided to dedicate Nilufar Depot to two important projects: *TERRA (IN)FIRMA*, a solo show by the artist Flavie Audi and the second edition of FAR - BRASSLESS curated by Studio Vedèt.

Seemingly unrelated, the designers and their works are in effect united by a common fundamental creative process—combining the desire, intention, and ability to transcend limits, restrictions and boundaries towards incredible new possibilities.

*central hall*

#### ***TERRA (IN)FIRMA***

**Flavie Audi**

The monographic exhibition of the French-Lebanese artist Flavie Audi investigates various geological forms and materials to shape a utopian world where real and virtual meet.

In the Anthropocene, current geological area, where problematic methods of resource extraction threaten to undermine the solidity of our planet, *TERRA (IN)FIRMA* seeks to destabilize our encounter with the terrestrial and imagine a post-human topography. In navigating this uncanny plain, we encounter fragments of hyper-liths dispersed through space, rupturing our sense of stability; rocks become fluid, tilting on their axis, conglomerating. Forms caress and nudge each other in tender relations. Digital aesthetics warps our sense of material nature, hybridising the organic and synthetic. Ultimately, *TERRA (IN)FIRMA* confronts us with the Promethean dilemma: should the Earth be treated as a resource whose utility is determined primarily by human needs? Can human technology overcome our environmental problems?

*caveau*

#### **FAR – BRASSLESS *New accords for the metallic wave*** **curated by Studio Vedèt**

FAR is a parasitic entity, an unsettling intestinal project that has crept among the spaces and programs of Nilufar Gallery for the past three years. FAR will take over the spaces of the Caveau at Nilufar Depot, in viale Lancetti, with the collective show *BRASSLESS*. The show is a provocative yet light gesture which strikes an irreverent and playful attitude in response to a trend that has popped up everywhere in product and interior design, in companies and galleries—including Nilufar itself—in recent years.

*BRASSLESS* comments on the use (or abuse) of this metal, most popularly in the form of surface-layer sheets that cover everything (and nothing in particular) in contemporary design, with little regard for the unique properties of brass. *FAR* celebrates the return of material potentiality and meaning as urgent design topics, showing 12 projects (in different metals and 1 nonmetal) that investigate physical and visual qualities of matter—exploring forms and avoiding uniformity.

Anna Diljá Sigurðardóttir  
Antonio Barone  
Carlo Lorenzetti  
Destroyers / Builders  
Lukas Wegwerth  
Objects of Common Interest  
Odd Matter  
OLDER with Alexander Benjamin Vinther  
Simon Ballen  
Studio Minale-Maeda  
Thomas Ballouhey  
Wendy Andreu / Bram Vanderbeke  
Special contributor - Martino Gamper

*boxes*

### ***HERITAGE – A lifelong collection + new contemporary pieces***

Nina Yashar, in forty years of career and research in Europe, Asia and the United States, has collected a compendium of works that has distinguished her history as a collector and gallery owner, has helped to outline her vision in the world of design and has marked the evolution of Nilufar.

The selection of historical pieces, also present in the catalogs published by the gallery on the occasion of the exhibitions curated by Nina Yashar, testifies to Nilufar's strength in the mid-century international design - among the authors: Gio Ponti, BBPR, Osvaldo Borsani, Arne Jacobsen, Bruno Mathsson, Alvar Aalto - but also in contemporary design, with projects by her beloved designers such as Gaetano Pesce, Andrea Branzi, Massimiliano Locatelli, Fabien Cappello and Nucleo.

*Heritage* stands out from all the other Nilufar projects also for the attention by Nina Yashar to the democracy of the selected pieces, with the aim and desire to make collectable design accessible to a younger audience, the future collectors of tomorrow.

In the settings surrounding Nilufar's three-story central atrium, contemporary creations and historic furnishings give life to harmonious scenographies and unique contexts, putting an exclusive selection of designs by Italian masters in dialogue with unique Brazilian pieces and new contemporary products.

Claude Missir  
Daniele Daminelli  
Hicham Ghandour  
Khaled El Mays  
Marco Lavit  
Massimiliano Locatelli  
Nicolini / Bertocco  
Osanna Visconti  
Sophie Dries

### **NILUFAR GALLERY**

Via della Spiga 32

Among the contemporary designers chosen by Nina Yashar as this year's protagonists for the gallery, the common denominator lies in their precise, iconic, and strongly characteristic design aesthetics. These works demonstrate the perfect accord between the ever-changing poetics and philosophies of the designers and the pioneering vision of the gallery owner.

*ground floor and via Senato space*

### **IT'S ALL ABOUT COLOUR**

#### **Studio Nucleo**

Studio Nucleo, a Turin-based collective of designers and artists led by Piergiorgio Robino, presents IT'S ALL ABOUT COLOUR an exhibition dedicated to the studio's collections and new productions, celebrating their tenth year of collaboration with the gallery.

"Life, death, power, love, passion, racing, religions, union, dangers, etc."

Humans Life it's all about colors.

Starting from color correlations, Nucleo exhibits six projects selected by Nina Yashar.

*"Goethe is convinced that perhaps the true creators of color are dyers more than artists. It may be a reminder of the Encyclopaedia, where interest in the "social" techniques of the arts and crafts was paramount. However, the main reason is another: dyers produce colors and pour them out into the world, which is like a forest in the hands of gardeners. Colors are not adjectives added to nouns but mean that men use to express themselves in the reality of the world. They are the dyers who perform the miracle of physically manufacturing color, materializing mental categories to give order, reason, and beauty to our life environment. The technique or practice triggered by perception has logic, making the world knowable before it is known. In the world, they have colored, men live within their ideas. And there is no need to bring up the light, on the border between physical and metaphysical: «Divide the light!? Try in vain to divide what, despite you, is unique, and one remains»."*

"The color theory," J.W. Goethe, introduced by Giulio Carlo Argan.

The exhibition will be an "IN FIERI" (Latin expression for in progress). The pieces will arrive monthly scheduled from July to November.

*Primitive*, initially presented at the Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Foundation, was Nilufar's first project for the Salone del Mobile in 2010 would open the sequence again. Exhibited in many museums and galleries around the world, *Primitive* became the cornerstone of Nucleo's design collections.

Realized for ten years in the signature shade of white, it appears this year for the first time in a full-color edition, enriched with a new chromatic range.

*Color Lenses* is the latest Nucleo project, would be the last.

An entire collection designed exclusively for Nilufar, including a bench, stools, floor lamps, and wall lighting, plays with transparency and multiplication of colors. Like lenses, focusing and refracting light through optical devices, the objects in this collection enchant with their changing reflections. The new series consists of several transparent volumes of polished resin. Each parallelepiped is colored using a new innovative technique that creates a polychromatic visual experience.

New shades also reimagine *Presenze*, the second collection presented by Nilufar. One vase from 2014 is recolored with an innovative "technique" that gives it new life; another piece, an unpublished console is made with resin cubes recycled from past editions and recolored with a new dark light.

The *Cages* bookcase, a unique 2014 piece made with an iron structure and framed in polished, patinated bronze, is in dialogue with the evolving project *Left Over*. These table sculptures, where the wooden tabletops become pictorial surfaces, were made in collaboration with the contemporary artist Hilario Isola in 2018 for the exhibition *Innesti*. Hilario Isola's work focuses on the pictorial and chromatic potential of organic material, such as fruit. Beginning with *Cages*, the artist leaves leftover fruits and vegetables on the wooden surfaces to stain them with the expelled juices. Originally a metal structure allowing light to filter through, *Cages* evokes a simple spatial representation, almost immutable. While being permeated by light, the geometric module is involved in a life-cycle of organic decay that fills it with color. In the direction of the first *Left Over* the piece, Nucleo designs an entirely new *Left Over* collection, continuing the studio's artistic collaboration with Hilario Isola. Elegant geometric brass structures host carved alabaster stones, which provide a canvas for Isola's organic color paintings.

In 2015 Nucleo presented *Relief* at Nilufar Depot: the sum of an artifact with its display. Since the display is visible as the artifact, it acquires the same value of the work that it exposes. The display becomes an installation, and joins the artifact, merging into a single work. The modular structures presented in the exhibition reveal themselves in bright colours. Nucleo presents a bench, a shelf, and one console: no more a simple display but an installation, that explains the artifact and enhances it.

*via Senato space*

**special project by Federica Perazzoli**

Nina Yashar has entrusted the development of this space to artist Federica Perazzoli, who presents *Each time you fall in love*, a new work inspired by the visual and aesthetic language of the East. The artist's creation of a painting, 200x600cm, made exclusively for Nilufar Gallery, is the starting point for further departures. The work, printed on fabric and wallpaper, covers the new contemporary pieces of Studio Nucleo, in a dreamlike and hyper-decorative atmosphere.

*first floor*

**Bethan Laura Wood, Martino Gamper and Massimiliano Locatelli: new contemporary conversations**

Plays of light and multicolored reflections, precious marbles and hand-blown glass define the contours of a large private lounge, where the new pieces of these contemporary designers are set in conversation with iconic furnishings by Gio Ponti, Augusto Bozzi, Carlo Pagani and Joaquim Tenreiro, in an eclectic and elegant atmosphere.

*ground floor – Nilufar25*

**HERITAGE' selection**

A reference to the Nilufar Depot exhibition, which represents a journey through the gallery's historical archive, to discover hidden treasures.

**Press office**

Giuditta Sironi [giuditta@nilufargallery.com](mailto:giuditta@nilufargallery.com)