



MANUFACTUM- EMBRACING THE FUTURE AND PRESERVING THE PAST

Exhibition including pieces from the Reimagine Decorative Arts Residency

The excellence of manufacture and savoir-faire in traditional techniques promote the historical and immaterial legacy of the Portuguese cultural heritage of arts and crafts and dignify the mission of the Ricardo do Espírito Santo Silva Foundation as a space for artistic creation and generational transmission. In current times, it is strategically necessary to continue the interlacement of traditional techniques and materials with contemporary artistic innovation, creating and reinventing new objects and new decorative concepts, contributing to the promotion, dialogue and connection of craftsmen, artists and designers. The objects here presented are a result from this fruitful dialogue and challenges to traditional manufacturing.

From Filipe Alarcão, a collection of pieces inspired by traditional Portuguese furniture models whose tradition is reinvented: desk and chair, cabinet on stand and a chest of drawers.

From Emmanuel Babled, Marre Moerel, Marco Sousa Santos and Sam Baron, pieces in the framework of the Reimagine Decorative Arts residences carried out in partnership with Passa ao Futuro. A residency that connects national and international established designers in collaborative structures with the highly skilled FRESS craftspeople and technicians, in order to reinterpret traditional manufacture techniques into contemporary pieces through the methodologies of research and the exchange of knowledge.

All designs were driven and inspired by the workshops savoir-faire, the FRESS archives, the Museum collection and explorations of cultural heritage sources for inspiration such the use of natural materials within which the pieces were developed in the workshops: woods, leather and metals.

This strategy aims at an innovative creative and artistic concept directed towards a new taste - a contemporary take that is fundamental to the patrimonial approach of our manufacture.

Fundação Ricardo Espirito Santo Silva: www.fress.pt/

Passa Ao Futuro: www.passaofuturo.com/

Links to project:

Manufactum Contemporâneo: <https://www.fress.pt/categoria-produto/manufactum-contemporaneo/>

Reimagine Decorative Arts Residency: <https://www.passaofuturo.com/residency-reimagine-decorative-arts>



DETAILS ON PIECES FROM THE REIMAGINE DECORATIVE ARTS RESIDENCY

BEVERLY

EMMANUEL BABLED WITH PEDRO DORIA AND DAVID CRUZ

Design: Emmanuel Babled 2018

Manufacture: FRESS

Craftspeople: Pedro Doria And David Cruz. With: Carlos Ferreira, Luis Figueiredo, Luis Gomes, Luciano Silveira, Cristina Santos, Orlando Tavares

Materials: Zebrawood, oak, smoked oak, rosewood and walnut. polished brass or copper.

Dimensions: Version L: L. 215 x W. 35 x H. 80 cm

Version M: L. 170 x W. 35 x H. 80 cm

Version S: L. 125 x W. 35 x H. 80 cm

Partnership: FRESS and Passa Ao Futuro

Limited Edition

Beverly was born out of the collaboration with the Portuguese foundation FRESS - which protects and promotes Portuguese decorative arts and handicrafts. Handcrafted from different woods, including brown smoked oak, walnut, zebrano and palisander, this organic chest features a hand-carved unique surface design and suggests a mystery to be solved. The chest has no front or back, no openings or visible handles, no planed surfaces: an invitation to discover and experience its shape. The mystery will eventually be solved, to include a further hidden storage compartment behind two cabinet doors. The two polished copper plates on the side create the illusion of spaciousness, depth and infinity. Four fine legs made of copper give this cabinet a fresh and sleek look. BEVERLY is available in additional styles, sizes and finishes.

CAMA DE ÓPIO- OPIUM BED

MARCO SOUSA SANTOS WITH TERESA ROMÃO AND BEATRIZ CANHA

Design: Marco Sousa Santos 2019

Manufacture: FRESS

Craftspeople: Teresa Romão and Beatriz Canha. With: Hugo Cardoso, Luís Gomes, Porfírio Pereira

Materials: Painted Iron and Leather

Dimensions: H. 45 x W. 57 x L. 135 cm

Partnership: FRESS and Passa Ao Futuro

Limited Edition

The Opium Bed is an elegy for contemplation. As a representation of a bed, with no apparent comfort, the smooth curve of the surface provides the necessary ergonomics for a “contemplative” bed. With or without the use of artificial stimuli, in Opium’s bed we forget our bodies and “paradise” feeds on our spirituality.

Made of a metal lacquered iron frame and hand pressed bolted leather interlaced strips.

LA GRAÇA

MARRE MOEREL WITH MIGUEL ALONSO

Design: Marre Moerel 2019

Manufacture: FRESS

Craftspeople: Miguel Alonso. With: Pedro Dória, Luciano Sequeira, António Almeida, Cristina Santos, Orlando Tavares

Materials: Walnut wood and Brass

Dimensions: L. 200 x W. 22 cm

Partnership: FRESS and Passa Ao Futuro

Limited Edition

A hung sculpture in space as an identity beyond the function. La Graca was inspired by the enormous wooden carved candleholder in the Graca church in Lisbon. Taking a single detail of the immaculately carved candelabra to celebrate the master carving technique and craftsmanship, while at the same time addressing religion and the repression of old hierarchy of politics with contemporary minimalism. Shining a light on the beautiful craft illuminating and highlighting from within by simple subtle lighting, marrying old techniques with new LED technologies.

LA GARDIENNE

MARRE MOEREL WITH BEATRIZ CANHA

Design: Marre Moerel 2019

Manufacture: FRESS

Craftspeople: Beatriz Canha. With: António Almeida, Ivo Ferreira and Clara Sales

Materials: Leather and Brass

Dimensions: H. 75 x D. 18 cm

Partnership: FRESS and Passa Ao Futuro

Limited Edition

Leather carved table lamp. The idea was to merge old and new traditions, using the ancient technique of leather carving, marrying decorative patterns with a more minimalist overall design. Using leather as a structural material itself. Celebrating the inherent beauty of this raw material and low-tech highly skilled craftsmanship, reflecting Marre's convictions that contemporary high-tech inventions /techniques are not necessary to be innovative. The form was derived as a tribute to the universal cone shape, based on the symbols of protective entities for human kind seen in nuns, priests, druids, healers, pyramids and the duality therein. Marrying minimalism with baroque exuberance, both universal elements. Merging this traditional language with Marre's personal world, the birds are her Diamond Gould birds that fly free in her studio and some of the carvings in the front depict her family crest dating back to the 1500s.

FEUILLADE

SAM BARON WITH ANTÔNIO ALMEIDA AND CLARA SALES

Design: Sam Baron 2019

Manufacture: FRESS

Craftspeople: Antônio Almeida and Clara Sales. With: Paula Braz, Ivo Ferreira

Materials: Iron, Tin plate and Gold.

Dimensions Wall: D. 30 x H. 6.5 cm

Dimensions Floor: H. 175 x D. 32 cm

Dimensions Ceiling: H. 72 x D. 18 cm

Dimensions Mirror: H. 213.4 x 85cm

Partnership: FRESS and Passa Ao Futuro

Limited Edition

The collection is made of 3 pieces, a wall mounted lamp, a floor lamp (existing also in a ceiling version) and a mirror. All of them are based on a contrast between minimal structure and ornamentation, having as mere reference the lanterns made by the latoaria workshop. Sam re-processed the same recipe as the traditional lanterns in a very contemporary way and with a subtle interaction with the light source. From a simple volume these traditional light(ing) objects become impressive, thanks to the different typologies and quantity of leaves that are applied on them. The richness and diversity of the different beautiful drawings and templates of the leaves in the FRESS collection were used as patterns to create shadows while the light objects were lit. Gold leaf is then applied on the entire piece to give uniformity to both structure and ornament, giving them a strong presence in the home where they will be placed. This final touch is also assumed as a way to highlight and enrich a humble material such as cut metal sheets that without the human care and attention would never achieve such “almost-glamorous” state.

PIECES FROM MANUFACTUM

CONTADOR / CABINET

FILIPE ALARCÃO

Design: Filipe Alarcão, 2019

Manufacture: FRESS

Materials: Brazilian rosewood, poplar, boxwood and brass.

Dimensions: H. 135 x L. 76,5 x W. 39 cm

Limited Edition

The Cabinet is in some way the result of careful observations about the particular features of FRESS, seeking to incorporate in this piece different technical skills that characterizes this institution, as well as the result of a reflection on the typologies of furniture that are produced. This object incorporates a series of elements and techniques that are present in many pieces produced in FRESS over time - woodworking, carving, inlaying, metalworking - as well as the use of small and intelligent mechanical devices which allow the incorporation of mechanisms of movement, concealment and closure. The design of this object thus consists in the creation of a cabinet, of non-specific use, closed by a system of doors that is totally reversible. Mounted on a system of metal surrounds with rotating pivots, this system allows to “dress” the furniture with two different decorations, thus allowing to completely change its visual appearance. In order to characterize this double-face effect, the design of two distinct decorations was chosen: a geometric decoration very minimalist and a more figurative decoration that recovers a carved floral motif, found in other Foundation’s pieces.

CHEST OF 6 AND 18 DRAWERS

FILIPE ALARCÃO

Design: Filipe Alarcão, 2019

Manufacture: FRESS

Materials: Brazilian cedar wood and Iron.

Dimensions 18 drawers: A. 205 x L. 40 x P. 40 cm

Dimensions 6 drawers: A. 72,7 x L. 40 x P. 40 cm

Limited Edition

These two pieces of furniture are a commemorative reissue of the 25th anniversary of its production by the Atalaia Shop and represent a personal tribute to Manuel Reis, who at the time was a true precursor in the promotion of relationships between structure production of quality craftsmanship and contemporary languages of Design. Each Chest of Drawer distinguishes itself through the scale and type of operation. This difference of scales and different possibilities of movement - the smallest is dynamic, moves by means of four wheels and the highest, static and centralizing, based on a rotating base end up creating a curious relationship between the two that would eventually incorporate the more advanced stages of project development. The two types of furniture are typologically identical, consisting of three fixed planes and a frontal plane composed of drawers whose fronts exhibit a curl that makes their opening possible and which offers a rhythm and a formal vibration that is very rich visually and very tactile and playful in the use of objects.

WALL DESK

FILIPPE ALARCÃO

Design: Filipe Alarcão, 2013

Manufacture: FRESS

Materials: Poplar wood and Leather.

Dimensions: H. 107 x L. 94,5 x W. 108 cm

Limited Edition

The Wall Desk is a mobile-office that directly supports itself in the wall and whose visual presence calls for a state of recollection conducive to the activity of writing.

Its shape, the result of a great drawing economy, results from the intersection of two curved planes that close (and open) each other. Manufactured at FRESS workshops, using only traditional woodworking techniques, this desk is very light, resulting from a careful choice of light woods and due to the simplicity of its structure, resembles a musical instrument. Its cover, which when folded serves as a work surface, is greatly calibrated so that the opening and closing movement is done with minimum effort.

DESK CHAIR

FILIPPE ALARCÃO

Design: Filipe Alarcão, 2019

Manufacture: FRESS

Materials: Poplar wood, beech wood and leather.

Dimensions: H. 82 x L. 57 x W. 39 cm

Limited Edition

The Desk Chair is a complementary object to the Wall Desk, formally assuming and structurally, the same constructive principles that guided the design of that piece. It is composed of two independent elements, interconnected in order to allow a rotating movement that is made without resource to a central rotational axis. It is this detail that allows typologically, this chair to assume a more informal and archetypal character than the usual office chair. Its seat is made up of an interwoven leather cord that, despite its distinctive scale, evokes the traditional wicker seats.

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