

« One piece a day » (1999 - 2016)

For its 100th exhibition, Galerie kreo has gathered together approximately a hundred pieces of contemporary and vintage design.

They have one thing in common: all have already been presented in one of the 99 previous exhibitions, between 1999 and 2016. Together, they form the history of the discipline of kreo design, even as they question its materials and forms, or its hybridisation with other fields of creativity. As a retrospective of 17 years in the business, "Une pièce par jour" (1999-2016) (one piece a day) is a panorama of design made in kreo, a journey documenting what makes the gallery unique: that of offering designers a space that allows them to shape both their everyday intuitions and their visions of the extraordinary. Galerie kreo is a laboratory that produces, exhibits and disseminates today's design, rooted in the history of modernity that has formed since the 1950s, and questioning the future of our relationships to objects and our habits.

Exhibition:
from 10th September
until 29th October 2016
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Opening reception:
Saturday 10th september 2016
15h to 20h
Open Tuesday to Saturday
from 11h to 19h
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There are many ways of celebrating anniversaries.

Let's start with numbers and dates

The first exhibition was held in May 1999; the hundredth, in September 2016. Adding up to one amazing number. As the title puts it, "one piece a day", the average result for the number of pieces produced over the past 17 years. Make no mistake, however; this is no Stakhanovite mantra. "Exhibitions are presented only when they are ready, when production has been finalised, when certain pieces have been eliminated and others perfected," explains Didier Krzentowski. So not a stale formula, but a sign of vitality, to remind us of the irreplaceable contribution made by designers exposed to the recent history of design. A piece a day keeps the monotony away.

And then the memories: from rue Louise Weiss to Saint-Germain-des-Prés and Mayfair

The kreo adventure began in the 13th arrondissement of Paris in 1999, two years prior to the closure of Staudemeyer's pioneering Galerie Néotù, the place that gathered a whole generation of design lovers, including Clémence et Didier Krzentowski.

Of course, this was no random location, since contemporary art is one of Didier Krzentowski's many passions, and at that time rue Louise Weiss was its French epicentre. It was gallery owners Emmanuel Perrotin and Jennifer Flay who encouraged him to open his own gallery. A number of earlier experiences had already given him a taste for exhibiting, in particular collaborations with the iconic Galerie Purple, and then with Fondation Cartier for the Fabulation exhibition by Radi Designers. May 1999 witnessed the opening of the first exhibition *Mobilier & Objets* (1960-2000). Already apparent alongside the contemporary pieces on show was the emphasis on vintage design that has since continued in the patient task of collecting the work of Gino Sarfatti and more recently exhibiting Italian and French lighting. *La Luce Vita* in 2015 continued along the path marked out as early as 2001-2002, with the exhibitions *Les Années 1950 and Design italien 1950-2001*.



The gallery moved from its original address in rue Louise Weiss to rue Duchefdelaville in 2004 and finally in 2008, to rue Dauphine in Saint-Germain-des-Prés. In 2014, the exhibition entitled *A Light Introduction* marked the opening of the London gallery, with a program complementing and extending that of the Paris gallery. The invitation to the inaugural exhibition which was the work of graphic designer Laurent Fétis, featured a trio of lamps, Wire (c. 1972) by Verner Panton – the first lamp Didier Krzentowski ever acquired – alongside Joe Colombo's Combi-center (1963), a modular cylindrical wooden storage unit, revolutionary at the time. In a nod to that piece of history, the invitation to the 100th exhibition echoes the composition, replacing the Colombo piece with Konstantin Grcic's iconic "studiolo" *Hieronymus Wood* (2016), one of the most recent pieces produced by Galerie kreo.

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And, finally, the identity "made in kreo"

Since 2000, a dizzying list of designers has been accumulated, and in no time at all, Ron Arad, Pierre Charpin, Marc Newson, Martin Szekely, the Bouroullec brothers, François Bauchet, Hella Jongerius and Jasper Morrison, among others, began regularly exhibiting their work as part of a program alternating monographs, themed exhibitions (*Sit Down*, 2001; *Métal*, 2002; *Bureaux*, 2003; *Miroirs*, 2003; *Tabourets*, 2007; *Autour du cou*, 2012), cross-disciplinary exhibitions and newly discovered young designers. In 2005 and 2011, the gallery showcased students at Pierre Keller's ECAL.

The exhibitions presented with Simon Lee (2010) and Jérôme de Noirmont (*Signes des temps*, 2015) echoed and amplified those that brought together Carl Andre and Pierre Paulin under the title *Critique de la séparation* in 2000, the 1970s "Metafore" photos by Ettore Sottsass with his latest creations in 2001, and then Bertrand Lavier and Marc Newson the following year. A place of honour should be reserved for collector Marcel Brient, Galerie kreo travelling companion from the outset, and the *Ensemble* (2012) and *Ce passant considérable* (2013) exhibitions, which offered a broader and enlightened vision of design by bringing it into conversation with contemporary art, poetry and literature. Galerie kreo has been not only a production laboratory but has also paved a new way of looking at design, open to the ambitions of its designers, of course, but also to other disciplines – fashion in particular, thanks to the long-standing involvement of Azzedine Alaïa. More than just an exhibition space and production house, Galerie kreo is also a key promoter of design more widely known. A publisher of monographs and thematic works (The Complete Designers Lights, in two volumes), consistent lender to leading international museums, the gallery also initiates off-site projects. Examples include the *Plus qu'hier et moins que demain* exhibition at the Galerie des Galeries (Galeries Lafayette, Paris, 2009) and the exhibition dedicated to Pierre Paulin at the Galerie Alaïa in 2011.

And tomorrow...

There is one last way to commemorate this 100th Galerie kreo exhibition – perhaps the most fertile of all. It involves encompassing the past, the present and the future in one single movement. Have no doubt that this exhibition is by no means a conclusion, but rather a guarantee of vitality for the exhibitions of the future, among them new projects from François Bauchet, Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec, Pierre Charpin, Konstantin Grcic and Marc Newson. Looking forward to seeing you very soon, at the 101st exhibition!

Clément Dirié

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A selection of designers kreo has exhibited since 1999 :

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François Bauchet
Mattia Bonetti
Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec
Pierre Charpin
Front Design
Konstantin Grcic
Jaime Hayon
Hella Jongerius
Chris Kabel
Alessandro Mendini

Jasper Morrison
Marc Newson
Jerszy Seymour
Brynjar Sigurdarson
Studio Wieki Somers
Ettore Sottsass
Martin Szekely
Maarten van Severen



"Cellae", 2013
François Bauchet



"Ronan et Erwan Bouroullec", 2001
Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec



"Platform", 2006
Pierre Charpin



"Champions", 2011
Konstantin Grcic



"Game on", 2015
Jaime Hayon



"Natura design magistra", 2009
Hella Jongerius



"All'Aperto", 2008
Alessandro Mendini



"Carrara Tables and Design Pieces", 2006
Jasper Morrison



"Frozen in time", 2010
Studio Wieki Somers

Exhibitions list :

2016

May 26 - August 5, "Summer Solstice" - London
April 4 - May 18, "Super-natural geometry" - London
March 23 - July 16, "Hieronymus" Konstantin Grcic - Paris
February 11 - April 2, "lumières à l'italienne" - Paris
January 29 - March 24, "the enlightened 50s" - London

2015

November 20 - January 30 "réunions de familles" - Paris
November 6 - January 20, "eclectic matches" - London
October 1 - November 19, "signes des temps" - Paris
September 16 - October 31, "marbles and clowns"
Pierre Charpin - London
June 3 - September 5, "game on" Jaime Hayon - London
May 21 - September 19, "game on" Jaime Hayon - Paris
March 25 - May 23, "shades of variety" - London
January 14 - March 16, "la luce vita" - Paris
January 15 - March 28, "la luce vita" - London

2014

November 5 - December 20, "only wood" - Paris
October 30 - December 20, "to be continued" - Paris
September 17 - October 30, "des formes utiles" - London
September 6 - October 31, "contrast control" - Paris
May 23 - July 26, "a light introduction" - London
May 21 - July 26, "convergences"
February 13 - May 17, "man machine" Konstantin Grcic

2013

November 28 - February 8, "the silent village collection"
Brynjjar Sigur-arson
October 9 - November 23, "ce passant considérable"
June 7 - September 28, "mitate" Studio Wieki Somers
March 22 - June 1, "OK"
January 22 - March 16, "cellae" François Bauchet

2012

November 29 - January 19, "autour du cou"
October 12 - November 24, "ensemble"
May 23 - July 28, "techniques mixtes, dimensions variables"
March 8 - May 2, "wood ring" Chris Kabel
January 12 - march 3, "tandem"

2011

October 15 - December 23, "units" Martin Szekely
September 8 - October 7, "ignotus nomen" Pierre Charpin
June 11 - July 23, "champions" Konstantin Grcic
February 10 - March 19, "matières à réflexion"
January 15 - February 5, "a new generation of lights" L'Ecal à Paris

2010

October 2 - December 23, "h.75"
September 15 - September 25, "Simon Lee in Paris"
April 24 - July 22, Ronan et Erwan Bouroullec
January 30 - March 20, "frozen in time" Studio Wieki Somers

2009

September 12 - October 31, "10 printemps en automne"
June 13 - July 25, "combinaison"
April 4 - May 30, "natura design magistra" Hella Jongerius
January 31 - March 28, "8 1/2" Pierre Charpin

2008

December 1 - January 19, "la liseuse" – prix Monica Danet
September 8 - November 24, "tabourets"
May 24 - July 25, "all'aperto" Pierre Charpin et Alessandro Mendini
April 5 - May 17, "concrete" Martin Szekely
January 26 - March 8, Ronan et Erwan Bouroullec

2007

June 2 - July 13, "a black show"
April 21 - May 26, "zero compromise"
March 17 - April 14, "a white show"
January 27 - March 10, "group show"

2006

December 2 - January 20 "vases"
October 21 - November 25, Maarten Van Severen
September 9 - October 14, "museum pieces" Jasper Morrison
June 8 - July 26, "carrara tables" Jasper Morrison
April 29 - June 1, "up and down"
February 25 - April 22, "platform v" Pierre Charpin
January 7 - February 18, "group show"

2005

November 5 - December, "design industriel" ECAL
September 10 - October 29, "cupboards" Hella Jongerius
May 28 - July 23, "Colors"
March 25 - May 21, "des étagères" Martin Szekely
January 8 - February 28, "bells" Ronan et Erwan Bouroullec

2004

September 11 - November 6, "le design en Italie"
April 24 - May 29, "assemblages 250, 150, 60"
Ronan et Erwan Bouroullec
March 6 - April 17, "cohabitation"
January 10 - February 28, Marc Newson

2003

November 15 - December 20, "miroirs"
September 13 - October 31, "bureaux"
June 10 - July 26, "géométries" Mattia Bonetti
April 26 - June 6, "collection hadar" François Bauchet
March 1 - April 19, "sans titre"
January 10 - February 22, Jerszy Seymour

2002

November 9 - December 21, Ronan et Erwan Bouroullec
September 14 - November 2, "métal"
June 1 - July 27, Bertrand Lavier - Marc Newson
March 9 - April 20, "six constructions" Martin Szekely
January 26 - March 1, "design italien: 1950-2001"

2001

December 8 - January 19, "sit down"
October 27 - December 1, Maarten Van Severen
September 8 - October 20, "let's talk about titanium"
Alessandro Mendini - Dan Friedman
May 31 - June 28, Ronan et Erwan Bouroullec
April 26 - May 26, "les années 50"
March 10 - April 21, "metafore" – photographies Ettore Sottsass
January 13 - March 3, François Bauchet

2000

November 10 - December 3, "céramiques - Vallauris"
Jasper Morrison - Pierre Charpin
September 16 - November 4, "un banquet" Martin Szekely
June 15 - July 29, Marc Newson
April 29 - June 10, Ron Arad
March 4 - April 22, Sylvie Fillère - Jean-François Dingjian
February, Dominique Mathieu in collaboration with "Chez Valentin" gallery
January 8 - February 26, Pierre Charpin

1999

November 17 - December 22, Laurent Fétis
September 15 - November 10, Ron Arad
June 5 - July 24, "mobilier, objets 1960 – 2000" Opening