

## Jean-Baptiste Fastrez

L o n d o n

### « Vivarium »

What is the missing link between the animal kingdom and the object? In his new exhibition «Vivarium», Jean-Baptiste Fastrez offers a very personal response to this issue: eight works, comprising furniture and objects, presented like animals in a jar, within our London gallery. In this bestiary, the designer has invited only wild – sometimes dangerous – animals which he has tamed and placed as if they were in a vivarium.

In his subtle work of representation, which he approaches with a distanced gaze, we recognise each animal by a clue, as so many enigmas to resolve in order to affirm a familiar but never blaring presence. The mirror sinuous curve resembles a snake, the green marble from the Alps evokes crocodile skin and the console "palissandre bleuette" marble recalls pachyderm hide. Fastrez, as always, mixes natural and synthetic materials. Corian is combined with natural stone, the anodised aluminium pendants and the polycarbonate lampshade of the «Medusa» lamp seem to have just risen from the waters. This synergy between form, technique and narration guides his work. The objects always recount a tale and animals constitute an inexhaustible source of inspiration, because they are loaded with symbolic power, referring to human beings' attachment to life.

This work on animal textures follow the « Mask » mirror collection with frames in acetate looking like horn and tortoiseshell, which marked our first collaboration with Fastrez seven years ago. Since then, zoomorphism has continued to permeate his work as a designer from his butterfly glasses to his beetle vase, and he endeavours to synthesise animality without any folklore. «Vivarium» is rooted in the 1930s and especially into Jean Dunand's work, providing a more abstract and contemporary version. A rediscovered balance between rationality and free forms, abstraction and narration in which Fastrez navigates with humour and subtlety, indeed with a certain welcoming irony.

### Jean-Baptiste Fastrez

After collaborating for three years with Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, Jean-Baptiste Fastrez has been designing for different brands such as Moustache, the Manufacture de Sèvres, Kvadrat and Tai Ping since 2011, when he opened his own studio. He won several prizes including the Grand Prize du Jury de la Design Parade at Villa Noailles, the Wallpaper Design Award for his «Scarabée» vase. Since 2012 Galerie kreO has been producing several of his works in limited editions: the «Mask» mirror collection, the «Etna» coffee tables and the «Egypt» vase collection. «Vivarium» marks Fastrez's first solo exhibition at the gallery.

### Exhibition

from 23rd May 2019  
to 27th July 2019

### Opening Reception

Wednesday, 22nd May 2019  
6pm - 8 pm

Open from Tuesday to Friday  
10am - 6pm  
Saturday 11am - 6pm

