

PHILIPPE STARCK, THE 80'S

Opening on Thursday, september 17th 2020

From friday, september 18th to saturday, october 10th 2020

After having displayed architects from the 50's (Jean Prouvé, Charlotte Perriand...) and key designers and decorators from the 60's (Pierre Paulin, Roger Tallon...), Jousse Galerie Entreprise follows up on its endeavor to put French design into light by dedicating a first exhibition to Philippe Starck's creative work, focusing on the 1980s. Jousse Galerie intends to make people discover, or rediscover, a selection of emblematic objects, rare furniture as well as numerous prototypes.

Poetry and Subversion

The exhibition will show two of Starck's first objects, the neon light Easylight and the screen light Stanton Mick: two poetic and subversive lamps, surreal and elegant, which bring together new and innovative techniques and materials, such as the Makrolon or the mercury switch.

These two precocious creations already bear, in a prophetic way, the vision that Starck still has today: "Subversive, ethical, political, humorous, poetic: here is the idea that I have of my duty as a creator".

The elegance of the minimum

In the early 80's, Starck enjoys a relation of confidence with major international editors, and especially the emblematic Italian editors. This friendship and mutual respect still persist today, allowing a creation which is increasingly liberated and visionary. This exhibition will show some of the furniture of that time: the table Joe Ship (1982), the lamp Tamish (1984), the coat rack Franco Bull (1985) the andirons Tito Lucifer (1986), the table Illusion (1992).

Phillipe Starck considers as a mission that whatever form creation takes; it should aim at improving people's lives. He therefore began creating urban furniture, designed to be used by anybody.

This is the case of the collection with JCDcaux or the seat for the Parc de la Villette, which is a definition, at least structural, of the chair as an object, as if it was dematerialized and not bound to the laws of gravity.

Representative of his time and predicting Starck's future works, all those creations already show his highly recognizable marque: the elegance of the minimum with a minimal and often monochrome design, and the use of as little material as possible for a better service. For that matter, some of his furniture have multiple uses, such as the lamp Tamish (lamp and bedside lamp) or the seat Lola Mundo (chair and stool).

A phantasmagoric architecture

Beside furniture, Starck goes into architecture and interior design, by creating unconventional and stimulating places, which made him globally renowned.

Starck stages those places, he creates scenarios and lightings which make people more beautiful, more elegant and more amorous.

The exhibition will show the rare prototypes of the chairs designed for the Royalton Hotel in New York and for the café Mystique in Tokyo.

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BIOGRAPHICAL LANDMARKS

To this day, with more than 10000 designed creations or creation projects, his global fame and inexhaustible protean inventiveness must not make us forget about the essential. Philippe Starck has a mission, a vision: that creation, whatever form it takes, should aim at improving people's lives. Starck thinks that this duty, which is highly poetic and political, rebel and caring, pragmatic and subversive, should be shared by everyone. He summarizes it with humor, a trait which goes hand in hand with his approach since the beginning: "Nobody has to be a genius, but everyone has to participate".

This citizen of the world sees it as a duty to share his ethical and subversive vision of a fairer world, and creates unconventional places and objects which aim at being "good" before being beautiful.

His profound understanding of the contemporary evolutions, his enthusiasm in imagining new life styles, his determination to change the world, his engagement for a positive degrowth, his love for ideas, his intention to defend the intelligence present in the useful – and the utility of intelligence – have brought him to design a vast number of iconic creations... Products from our daily lives, such as furniture, or a lemon squeezer, but also revolutionary mega-yachts, hotels and restaurants; places designed to be inspiring, phantasmagoric and intensely alive. He never stopped to push back the limits and criteria of contemporary creation.

An individual wind turbine, a smart thermostat, electric bikes, or an innovative and ecological wooden prefabricated house – soon to be followed by solar boats and housing modules designed for a space station. Those technological miracles are the vectors of a democratic ecology, turned towards action and respectful of a double heritage: human and natural.

Heralding the convergence and dematerialization phenomena, Philippe Starck has always elaborated objects which are endlessly seeking to get more with less. His dreams become solutions which are so vital, so essential, that Starck was the first French person to participate in the famous TED conferences.

Philippe Starck is an Inventor, a creator, an architect, a designer, and an art director. But most of all he is an honest man, in the pure tradition of Renaissance artists.

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Chaise Tessa Nature, 1989
© Maxime Champion



Prototype chaise Royalton, 1988
© Maxime Champion



Paire de chaises Tito Lucifer, 1986
© Maxime Champion



Prototype chaise Café Mystique, 1988
© Maxime Champion



Lampes Easylight, 1979
© Maxime Champion



Chaise du Parc de la Villette, 1984
© Maxime Champion



Table Illusion, 1991
© Maxime Champion



Chaise Lola Mundo, 1988
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