

Foundation

Formafantasma

For the occasion of the 2017 Salone del Mobile, Studio Formafantasma has been invited to occupy and re-open the Milanese venue Spazio Krizia, after several years of vacancy. Known as one of the most prominent locations of the 'Fuorisalone' (the independent design scene that grew as an alternative to the furniture fair), the space has previously hosted presentations from designers such as Ingo Maurer and Ron Arad.

Formafantasma presents a selection of objects from their 'Delta' collection, developed for the gallery Giustini Stagetti, Galleria O. Roma, and a series of experiments with light, developed for Peep-hole, an independent art centre in Milan.

'Foundation' will also preview part of an upcoming collaboration with the TextielMuseum/ TextielLab in Tilburg, that will be shown in full in 2018. Presented as a companion to the launch of the studio's first industrially produced objects with the lighting company Flos, 'Foundation' offers a deeper insight into their thinking. The show is conceived as a display of studies and the groundwork for current and future developments in the field of lighting.

While the finished objects are formally developed and define a new, more industrial direction for the studio, the experiments (concisely named by the designers as 'tests' and numerically divided) demonstrate the duo's intuitive and research-based process. Designed as three-dimensional sketches, these tests are instinctively, yet carefully assembled, using stationary (pencils and erasers) and standard industrial materials (steel rods, bricks and insulation material). LED strips are left visible and unfiltered, embracing the punctuated light as an opportunity, rather than a limitation. The result is a meticulous investigation into the components of light—reflection, shadow, color, space—and the use of optics, mirrors and glass to shape it.

Elements which at first appear sculptural, reveal a specific intent on closer inspection. Responding to the lack of colour saturation during the winter months, the designers created three objects which cast brightly-tinted reflections on walls, through the use of layered dichroic glass. Another object, fitted with a crystalline, polycarbonate lens suspended under a LED light source, is designed to cast a perfect round reflection on the floor. When using the very symbol of sculptural materials—bronze—the designers apply its most basic characteristics: weight and reflectiveness. In this way, 'Foundation' highlights the studio's consistent focus on rethinking object typologies through material investigations.

Spazio Krizia

Cristiano Seganfredo, Artistic Director of Krizia

Spazio Krizia is reopening. A physical yet intangible place committed to the new frontiers of contemporaneity where actions and production take place.

Spazio Krizia acts as a porous dimension which is sensitive to unstable and developing relationships between art, design, fashion and literature, photography, illustration and digital technologies. A seismograph focusing on vibrations and alternative movements, Spazio Krizia is stable but free, both open and closed, like a pleat.

The doors in via Manin in Milan are reopening to innovation and the city. The visionary and avant-garde spirit of its origins is back, for a continuous future in change.

About Foundation

Maria Cristina Didero

Formafantasma's work is a process, a challenge, an ambition. Their products undermine the system. The objects are the driving force behind research on concepts, semantics and stratified yet synthesizable culture. Even light is called into question by Formafantasma, where Andrea and Simone are able to open up a piece of the sky within the room. They minimize to exalt, they give form to what cannot be seen, even when the light switch is off. Formafantasma's work on light destabilizes the status quo, and like always, their revolution is a demonstration of solid and coherent design thinking.

Andrea Trimarchi (1983) and **Simone Farresin** (1980) are Studio Formafantasma, an Italian designers duo based in Amsterdam. They took their degrees in the IM Master Course of Design Academy Eindhoven in 2009. Their works have been shown and published on an international level and are part of prestigious public collections like those of MoMA New York, Stedelijk Museum's-Hertogenbosch, Metropolitan Museum New York, MAK Museum Vienna, Victoria and Albert Museum London, MUDAC Lausanne, Mint Museum of Craft and Design in North Carolina, Chicago Art Institute, and the TextielMuseum in Tilburg. Formafantasma are lecturing and heading workshops in various Universities and Institutions. At the moment they are teaching at the BA 'Well Being' and MA 'Contextual Design' Departments of the Design Academy Eindhoven. Since October 2016, they are at the head of the Design bachelor at MADE Program in Siracusa, Italy.

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Credits

Lamps Courtesy — Giustini/Stagetti, Galleria O. Roma, TextielMuseum/ TextielLab Tilburg, Studio Formafantasma
Concept, Design — Andrea Trimarchi, Simone Farresin
Development — Daniele Misso, Nicolas Veschaev, Jeroen Van Der Gruiter, Francesco Zorzi, Thomas Missé, Lorenzo Capparucci, Johanna Seelemann, Simon Ballen