

BLESS

N°60 Lobby Conquerors (in dialogue with Artek furniture classics)

14.02. - 04.03.2018

Opening reception: 14.02.2018 6-9 PM

Mathew Gallery in collaboration with Pin-Up Magazine and Artek is pleased to invite you to a presentation of *N°60 Lobby Conquerors* by BLESS. Finnish furniture company Artek and Berlin/Paris based BLESS have joined forces to create *BLESS N°60 Lobby Conquerors*, originally commissioned for the Chicago Architecture Biennial.

On the occasion of New York Fashion Week, *Lobby Conquerors* relocate to Mathew Gallery, NYC. A second part of the installation can be seen at Westreich Wagner, NYC.

BLESS N°60 Lobby Conquerors is related to the *BLESS N°07 Livingroom Conquerors* (1998), a series of options for dressing and shape-refining existing furniture for private use. With *Lobby Conquerors*, these ideas expand into the public realm.

Through garments and fragmented architectural add-ons, Artek's iconic Kiki Lounge Chairs, designed by Finnish Master Ilmari Tapiovaara in 1960, are transformed into small architecture units. Meanwhile Tapiovaara's Lukki stools (1954) appear dressed-up in hairy costumes that seem to occupy the seating objects, challenging and inviting the visitors to take a seat. A number of Tapiovaara's classic Kiki Benches complement the space, welcoming the visitors to sit down and become a decorative subject themselves, celebrating a tentative appointment in the Here & Now. This conglomeration inhabit a transitory space and invite interaction in two ways: either by connecting people or by providing privacy and shelter. A gallery becomes a romantic location of encounter between human and furniture. During New York Fashion Week visitors can come, sit and rest.

About Artek

Artek was founded in Helsinki in 1935 by four young idealists: Alvar and Aino Aalto, Maire Gullichsen, and Nils-Gustav Hahl. Their goal was "to sell furniture and to promote a modern culture of living by exhibitions and other educational means."

In keeping with the radical spirit of its founders, Artek today remains an innovative player in the world of modern design, developing new products at the intersection of design, architecture, and art. The Artek collection consists of furniture, lighting, and accessories designed by Finnish masters and leading international designers. It stands for clarity, functionality, and poetic simplicity.

About BLESS

Founded in 1997 by Desiree Heiss and Ines Kaag, Paris and Berlin-based BLESS is best described as a platform of creation. BLESS create products and situations that connect people to their surroundings and atmospheres in the celebration of *Jetztzeit*, treating the restless now. Their works span over fashion, visual arts, sports, design, social activities and architecture.

BLESS has exhibited at prestigious institutions worldwide including Centre George Pompidou in Paris, Villa Noailles in Hyères, Boijmans Museum in Rotterdam, MoMA in Tokyo and Vitra Design Museum in Weil am Rhein.

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