



Media Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Singapore presents the potential of design at Future Impact

Six designers, among the best in Singapore, offer their vision of a better future at Milano Design Week 2023 in a showcase commissioned by the DesignSingapore Council and curated by Tony Chambers and Maria Cristina Didero.

Milan, March 21, 2023 – **Future Impact at Casa del Pane (Bastioni di Porta Venezia)** showcases and celebrates future-thinking design and the positive impact that this has on our everyday life. Curated by Tony Chambers and Maria Cristina Didero, and presented by the **DesignSingapore Council**, it will be open to the public from **April 18** until **April 23, 2023**.

Future Impact highlights Singapore as a design-led hub of innovation and creativity in which impactful design solutions and technology intertwine to shape a brighter future for everyone, and emphasises the urgent need for sustainability in design and production today.

The curators, alongside DesignSingapore Council, Singapore's national agency for design, invited Singapore's most talented and imaginative designers to share their unique vision for a global future. Forward-thinking solutions that employ cutting-edge technologies and poetic story-telling have been created by six featured designers: Forest & Whale, Viewport Studio, Gabriel Tan, Nathan Yong, Studio Juju and Tiffany Loy.

Future Impact will debut six new works, displayed at the historic and iconic location, Casa del Pane (Bastioni di Porta Venezia). The venue acts as a fittingly dramatic backdrop for the showcase, and is a nod to the future as it will be transformed to be the new home of the Museo dell'Arte Digitale come 2025.

Tony Chambers, co-curator, says, 'Singapore has been a hotbed of progressive design talent for many years, and I am delighted to help bring this message to a global audience during Milan Design Week. I'm confident that Future Impact will also leave its own positive and lasting impression.'

"The contemporary design scene in Singapore shines with an innovative and futuristic spirit. A distinct economic, social, and political landscape for Asia and beyond, Singapore has built an independent and thriving cultural scene, which is now presented in Milan to showcase the ability of the local designers in connecting the most uplifting sustainable products with the latest available technologies. The participation of six of the most prominent Singaporean studios, with never-seen-before projects, makes the exhibition Future Impact a chance to discover new perspectives and visions, but it also offers a possibility to envision our own global future," says co-curator Maria Cristina Didero.

Dawn Lim, DesignSingapore Council Executive Director says, "Singapore is known as a futuristic and visionary city. Our design therefore has its own creative slant – innovative, transformative and impactful to make lives, cities and the world better by design. The DesignSingapore Council is proud to showcase Future Impact at Milan Design Week with these forward-looking designers. Their breath of work represents how Singapore design can contribute positively toward issues such as sustainability, the evolution of craft and the role of technology in design."

The designers and works featured in Future Impact are:

Nathan Yong – Bent Onyx



Multidisciplinary designer Nathan Yong presents Bent Onyx, a bridge between the past and future, traditional craft and technological innovation to sculpt Onyx, one of the most fragile and brittle natural stones.

Yong uses a patented technology that reduces the surplus waste created during the production process of making Onyx furniture and interior objects. Blocks are thinly sliced into sheets and then laminated to create dramatic new shapes and volumes, thus positively impacting the amount of material use, protecting the stone for future generational use.”

Studio Juju – OO Collection



OO Collection, designed by Studio Juju, is a collection of five sculptural objects characterised by circular holes. Abstract in their function, the familiar and ubiquitous holes punctuate the pieces, leaving one to imagine their purpose. The pieces are constructed entirely from Dekton (Pietra Kode series), a sophisticated, high-performance, ultracompact stone slab material by Cosentino that has achieved carbon neutrality for its entire life cycle.

Tiffany Loy – Building Futures Line by Line

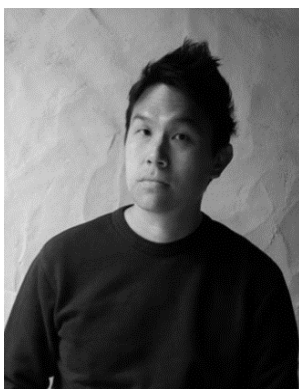


Textile designer Tiffany Loy teams up with SUTD's DManD (Singapore University of Technology and Design's Digital Manufacturing and Design Centre) to explore advanced automated textile construction as a means of additive manufacturing.

Despite their time-honoured existence and association with craft, weaving and knitting have been consistently rejuvenated with digital accompaniments such as software and automation of hardware. Fuelled by fervent designers such as Loy and researchers at DManD, the domain of coding for complex textile construction is growing.

This collaboration explores the construction of multi-material, pliable 3D forms, filling a gap in the current world of 3D printed options. Textile construction methods allow material properties to be retained in the final product, unlike 3D printing processes which are often restricted by types of fusible materials used. Any material in the form of the pliable line can be woven or knitted into a 3D form. With this starting point, Loy and the team at DManD explore an imagined future of a world built with lines.

Gabriel Tan – Aiming for Peace: The Carnation Lamp



Aiming for Peace is a floor and pendant lamp that carries both a sense of hope and poignancy. Inspired by the Flower Power movement – the flower triumphs over conflict and becomes an iconic symbol of non-violence and harmony. Amidst our current global climate of division and strife, this lamp is a beacon of light amid chaos.

Composed of an ash wood base made from furniture production offcuts, a recycled steel pipe stem and a 3D printed lampshade made from recycled plastic, the lamp uses a low energy 2.5W LED source.

Viewport Studio – Rinnovare



With Artificial Intelligence (AI) still in its infancy, Viewport Studio was keen to look at how it may change design in the future – particularly in relation to sustainability.

The studio has produced two sculptural room divider screens made from waste metal parts from their ongoing collaboration with Italian manufacturer Equilibri. One is designed via conversations directly with the manufacturer and the other via conversations with an AI (Chat GPT). Viewport Studio will let the viewers decide for themselves which approach they prefer and leave room for reflection on the usefulness of AI at this moment and in the future.

Forest & Whale – Wallflower



Forest & Whale are a design duo with a focus on sustainable design, social care and future envisioning. Their project, Wallflower, is an interactive wall poster that transforms seeds into art, imbuing them with constant presence and visibility in our living environment. Composed of multicoloured tesserae, these colour chips, embedded with seeds, can be torn off, planted and grown into herbs. As more chips are used, the artwork evolves, growing smaller until it finally disappears, leaving no waste behind. Wallflower rethinks the philosophy of gardening and is a subtle daily reminder for us to rekindle our relationship with nature.

In collaboration with Fab.Pub, Forest & Whale designed a limited edition of vases that will be 3D printed onsite using a clay-based filament. With a surface that undulates and ripples like plant roots, the herb vessels elevate the visual form of the ubiquitous pot into a taller silhouette, drawing intention to the ritual of kitchen gardening. Visitors to the installation will witness the growing of herbs and terracotta vessels at the same time.



About the DesignSingapore Council

The DesignSingapore Council's (Dsg's) vision is for Singapore to be an innovation-driven economy and a loveable city by design. As the national agency that promotes design, our mission is to develop the design sector, help Singapore use design for innovation and growth, and make life better in this UNESCO Creative City of Design.

Our work focuses on three areas. First, we help organisations and enterprises use design as a strategy for business growth, and for excellent delivery of public services. Second, we nurture industry-ready talents skilled in design and innovation, and engender a design-minded workforce for the future economy. Third, we advance the Singapore brand through raising design appreciation on home-ground, helping local design talents and firms go international, and making emotional connections with people across the world. Dsg is a subsidiary of the Singapore Economic Development Board.

Singapore was designated a UNESCO Creative City of Design in December 2015. The designation supports Singapore's development of a creative culture and ecosystem that integrates design and creativity with everyday life. It also expands Singapore's opportunity to collaborate with cities from the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN). The City of Design Office is sited with Dsg, which coordinates and implements programmes that respond to UCCN's mission.

designsingapore.org

About the Curators

Tony Chambers is a Creative Director, Design Consultant and Editor. He is the founder of creative agency TC & Friends and co-founder, with artist Ryan Gander, of OTOMOTO – the design, art and ideas platform.

He is the editor and creative director of the definitive monograph of designer Paul Smith published by Phaidon and the Co-Chair of Brainstorm Design, Fortune magazine's design & business conference.

From 2003 to 2018 Tony served as Editor-in-Chief and Creative Director of Wallpaper* magazine, for which he still contributes. He also served as Art Director of British GQ and Art Editor of The Sunday Times Magazine.

He has twice been named the PPA Designer of Year and twice Editor of the Year by the BSME. He is a recipient of the Mark Boxer Award for outstanding services to the Publishing Industry – the most prestigious honour in British publishing.

Maria Cristina Didero is an independent design curator, author, and consultant. She has collaborated with magazines including Domus, Vogue Italia, Apartamento and was editor-at-large of ICON Design from 2018 to 2020. She currently holds the role of Milan editor for Wallpaper magazine. Maria Cristina has contributed to many publications and collaborated with companies such as Vitra, Fritz Hansen, Lexus, Fendi, Louis Vuitton, Valextra among others. Based in Milan, she works internationally, curating exhibitions for institutions, fairs and events dedicated to design. She has worked for Vitra Design Museum for 14 years, while some of her recent projects include The System

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