

A Miniatures Collection with a Cult Following Vitra Design Museum presents digitally manufactured miniatures

Vitra Design Museum's Miniatures Collection has acquired a cult following: In 1992 the museum began reproducing design classics at a scale of 1:6 in a labor-intensive manufacturing process that replicated even the smallest details of their original counterparts. Four new digitally manufactured miniatures will be presented to the public from April 17 to 22, 2018 as part of the Fuorisalone during Milan Design Week. These four new miniatures of 21st century design icons—the originals of which are housed in museum collections across the world and sometimes traded at premium prices—were developed in close cooperation with their original designers. Vitra Design Museum's miniatures help make designs that were often produced in very limited editions available to a larger circle of collectors and enthusiasts, and serve a variety of purposes: accessories for design fans, collectables for design enthusiasts or study objects for scholars.

»Sketch Chair« (2005) by the Swedish design group FRONT is one of Vitra Design Museum's new miniatures. The object questions traditional conceptions of design while retaining the intuitive character of the initial sketch, translated into a piece of seating furniture. A miniature of Joris Laarman's »Bone Chair« (2006), which is reminiscent of a human skeleton, will also be revealed. The chair was designed with the help of software that enabled efficient construction for optimal stability while using the least amount of material possible. One of the original chairs was recently sold for nearly 400,000 euros at auction. »Sinterchair« (2002) by German designer-duo Vogt & Weizenegger is the first piece of furniture that was produced on an industrial scale employing a 3D printing technology—the same technology used for the miniatures. »Solid C2« (2004) by French designer Patrick Jouin is also made using a 3D printing technique, manufactured out of a single piece that is refined by hand.

Including these four new pieces, Vitra Design Museum's Miniatures Collection now contains around 70 detailed replicas, including 19th century design classics by the likes of Thonet or Charles Rennie Mackintosh, key modern pieces by the likes of Marcel Breuer or Charlotte Perriand and Radical Design objects such as the lip sofa »Bocca«. As miniatures, these objects bear witness to a design culture that has long become part of our collective consciousness.

Renowned Spanish photographer and co-founder of *apartamento* magazine Nacho Alegre has recently portrayed the miniatures in a new light. His humorous still lifes made out of office and everyday items reveal the objects' fascinating allure.

The licensing fees of the miniatures support the work of their original designers and estates. Despite of their success story, the miniatures have always remained a cultural project. All proceeds benefit the work of Vitra Design Museum: from exhibitions, research, communications to the preservation of the originals in the museum collection. The miniatures thus don't only document design history—they have become part of the history of design themselves.

Facts:

Models:

Sketch Chair

Front Design, 2005
H 128 x W 74 x D 77 mm
Material: Epoxy resin
€ 599.00

Bone Chair

Joris Laarman, 2006
H 118 x W 74 x D 128 mm
Material: Aluminum
€ 990.00

Sinterchair

Oliver Vogt & Hermann Weizenegger, 2002
H 128 x W 74 x D 83 mm
Material: Polyamide
€ 299,00

Solid C2

Patrick Jouin, 2004
H 134 x W 66 x D 91 mm
Material: Epoxy resin
€ 389.00

General Information

Presentation location:	La Pelota Via Palermo 10 20121 Milan, Italy
Opening hours:	April 17 – 21, 2018: 10am – 9pm April 22, 2018: 10am – 6pm
Press images:	www.design-museum.de/press_images
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