



PRESS RELEASE

Milano, September 2021

It is with great pleasure that we announce the participation at ALCOVA with the exhibition *New Uses and Salvaged Participation*, part of Fuori Salone organized in the Inganni Milan district, a former military area, which has been disused since the late nineties. On this occasion the area will come back to a completely different life.

Maria Thereza Alves, Jimmie Durham and Jone Kvie are pleased to present a new series of works from the LABINAC collective: tables, chairs, benches, lights and interior design elements such as vases, and stone and glass lamps, which capture natural light.

The common denominator for all the works remains the approach to research and deep experimentation, the desire to try and play with the different possibilities and the lives of each single object or, more specifically, the former life of a single detail, which has been lived, or to the new life it could find itself living if put in a different context.

There is the constant and ever present interaction between the different materials, the old and the new, the recycled and the material created ad "hoc", the desire to create contact with the object not only in the moment of its creation and production, but also in its second, third, fourth phase of life, when the new owner who will acquire it will bring it to new life by inserting it into their space using it as a chair, table, light ...

Upon entering the room, one notes the majestic first piece, made from a large olive trunk, created by Jimmie Durham, who has been recently awarded the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the 58th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale.

The table entitled *Sabi* means "loneliness" in Japanese. Ancient Olive trees felled by lightning, disease and accidents of nature are usually made into small kitchen utensils and bowls which reveal the complex grain but the treeness of the Olive becomes absent. Jimmie Durham brings back the movement of this Olive and honors its long history of being on the land.

There is also a table by Jone Kvie on display at the exhibition. Using the same wood with which he started his collaboration with LABINAC producing *The First Shelf*, here he creates *The First Table*. Two wooden planks, elegantly superimposed and placed one above the other, with a cardboard box cast in aluminium and a magnificent onyx stone with multiple shades, ranging from green to brown, in a delicate chromatic dialogue with the wood below and above.

Another new body of work presented on occasion of the Fuori Salone is the series of vases, entitled *Forms of Life* by Maria Thereza Alves who chose to work with glass here.

An incredibly malleable but also complex material, molten glass, when in its soft state, seems at times slithering to the point of no return where glass, stressed out, can no longer be encouraged on the path of shaped solidity that one expected moments before. This is the

moment when Alves pauses the process so that the object comes to life, expressing itself in its most intrinsic form.

The artist applied pressure when shaping the vase allowing for the play with compressions and expansions, creating a vase that is perfectly imperfect. Maria Thereza provokes us and invites us to ask ourselves why perfect straightness or roundness are needed for perfect functionality?

“It is a known quality of glass to like symmetry, I want to convince it that perhaps it would like to be freed from this prison. And it was in this process that once in a perfect dance the glass, I and a tool used for shaping were swept into creating a new form of life –it happened. Yes, sometimes it can be magic.”, explains Alves.

These are just some of the pieces that LABINAC is pleased to present in the fascinating location of the former military hospital on Via Simone Saint Bon which, with the mixture of decadent charm and intrinsic elegance, seems to be the perfect setting to host such works.

“The earth is much more than our daily routines, aesthetic life is a life worth living.” is Alves` motto.

You can find details of the works and high-resolution images in the link here:

[CLICK HERE](#)

We would also like to inform you that the exhibition Echoes of the Forest by Labinac, which opened in May in the evocative setting of the Serra of the Giardini Reali in Venice, has been reopened in these days for an extension until 17 September. You can find more information [HERE](#).

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