

HORNS

WODNIC

M-L-XL

& NEON

LAURO

15 – 22 April, 10:00 am – 7:00 pm

Preview: 14 April, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

5vie district night: 18 April, 6:00 – 11:00 pm

M-L-XL and Neonlauro are pleased to announce a design developed exclusively for this year's Salone del Mobile in Milan. Horns is a limited edition of neon lighting that plays with a traditional glass-blowing technique called "incalmo", that explores the limits of glass craftsmanship and neon technology. The pendant lamp, developed for this occasion, will be on display from 14 until 22 April 2018 at the Meazza space, in the 5vie district.

Interested in projects that explore new ways of making and place traditional craftsmanship in a contemporary framework, M-L-XL has conceived Horns as a model that questions the limits of neon technology and sophisticated glass artisanal production. The design was developed through an ongoing dialogue with Neonlauro's skilled artisans, who have provided invaluable insight into the techniques of glassblowing and neon technologies.

It was due to their craftsmanship that Horns was able to push the boundaries of the 'incalmo' technique of glass blowing, whereby pieces of glass are welded to create a single object that is blown together with different colours. Because different glass colours cool at different temperatures, this a delicate glass-blowing technique. Paired with the neon lighting, this 'incalmo' structure of the lamp is given a completely new character.

For this reason, Horns is a sculptural piece, as much as a functional object, that plays with light, but also with colour and unique spatial construction. Its sculptural qualities emerge both when its lit and not, revealing the geometric construction that shaped it. As such, Horns makes reference to both the world of neon, used in conceptual art by artists such as Joseph Kosuth and Mario Merz, as well as the world of Murano glass craftsmanship. As a result, the form of the object reveals the union of these two spheres of production, the meticulous craftsmanship and technique of glass-blowing and the radical aesthetic visions of contemporary art.

The idea of merging different colours into a unique whole, playing with different types of joints and connections, is a constant in M-L-XL's work. Their previous project, Rivetto stool, played with metallic tubes of different colour that were joined together with metal rivets for a unique construction.

Interested in creating systems and environments, more than single objects, the presentation will also include an audio installation transmitting M-L-XL's 'Occasional Radio' in loop. 'Occasional Radio' is an audio project curated by the studio that consists of a series of episodes, an hour long each, that explore the concept of the avant-garde in contemporary music.

Based between Venice and London, M-L-XL is an office for production and research across different disciplines dealing with design, furniture, typography and publishing.

The practice was founded by Marco Campardo and Lorenzo Mason, as a way of creating a unique framework for their multidisciplinary projects. Since 2005, Marco and Lorenzo have been jointly running a number of different projects, such as a graphic design and art-direction studio (Tankboys), a publishing house (Automatic Books), curating exhibitions (such as the Manifesto project and The Breakfast Pavilion), teaching in different universities and holding lectures and workshops. M-L-XL brings all these experience under one roof.

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NEONLAURO

In 1956 a young neon bender, Lauro Piaia, my father, decided to start his own business. Neonlauro was born as a family-run neon and sign workshop in San Vendemiano, Treviso, where in the early fifties the neon bending technology developed rapidly, thanks to an extraordinary manual mastery, wide-spread and established in this part of Italy. After more than 60 years, we're still based here, in the hills behind Venice.

Even if the firm has grown and passed through the first generational shift, we still consider ourselves as a genuinely artisan concern. And that reflects in our work, in the deep knowledge on materials, the attention to details and the curiosity to chase after new ideas. Until they become objects. Starting out from the hands. Working with artists represents for us the natural development of our working philosophy and a continuous challenge that moves us forward. For this project, we worked side by side with M-L-XL Studio to create a new neon lamp, 'Horns'.

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