



Schloß
Hollenegg
for Design

Schloss Hollenegg for Design presents:

LEGACY - A Design exhibition exploring cultural heritage.



For the third consecutive year, Schloss Hollenegg opened its doors to host a design exhibition, under the title Legacy. From Friday 4th to Monday 7th of May 2018, and on appointment until Sunday 27th of May, visitors were able to walk in many of the rooms of the castle, normally closed to the public, and see objects of contemporary design next to antiques of the Liechtenstein collection. The exhibition, curated by Alice Stori Liechtenstein, was build on the previous years themes (Slow and Morphosis) and present the concept of LEGACY.

The exhibition “Legacy” explores the importance of heritage, in personal and collective terms, looking both at the past, and at the future. A legacy is most commonly understood as something that remains from an earlier time, such as something received from an ancestor - a cultural, intellectual, moral inheritance of powerful and long-lasting value. As individuals, the intangible inheritance we have absorbed from our family and upbringing, in the form of education, values, ethics and beliefs, profoundly defines us to our core. In the same way that our past has shaped who we are, we are shaping the future of those who will follow us. As humans we have an inherent urge to create, to build, to make, and are continually, and often inadvertently, building a legacy that will outlive our physical existence. We might start to think about the kind of legacy we want to leave behind only in the moment we are confronted with our mortality, and in us grows the desire to overcome death. Legacy is about life, and how to invest our finite time. In the instant in which weaving a legacy becomes a conscious decision, we have to question what it is that we are building in our lives, and if what we are leaving behind is a valuable and positive legacy for the generations to come.

Nineteen designers have confronted themselves with the concept of Legacy, creating works that are often, in some ways biographical, while retaining a wider relevance to society. They have explored multilayered threads, such as: family, craft, social justice, ecology, history, feminism. Like the Roman god Janus, they have consistently looked at ways of preserving the past, while investing in the future. As part of their project, the designers have brought to the conversation a symbolic image of the legacy they have inherited, and a written statement for the future.

The objects on show in Schloss Holleneegg transcend their function and become conveyors of a message. They are invested with symbolic significance, as they become an excuse to recount a story and question: the legacy of human kind. For the visitor, these objects wish to prompt reflection on human and personal legacy. Where do I come from? How am I investing my time? What will I leave behind? We need to become aware of our past in order to build for the future. And when building for the future we need to pay attention to the quality of the legacy we are creating. We need to work wisely and consistently, making sure value, knowledge and skills are not lost along the way. And we may perhaps become aware that leaving less, rather than more, could be the most powerful legacy of all.

The exhibition was also be the occasion in which the design installations, fruit of the 2017 residency program, were presented to the public for the first time. These were site-specific works designed by Belén, Breaded Escalope, Commonplace and Odd Matter.

BELEN

Brecht Duijf and Lenneke Langenhuijsen met at the Design Academy Eindhoven and established Belén in 2014. Their projects often start from material investigation and aim at broadening and expanding the qualities of spaces, objects and products. Central to their approach are the intuitive, emotional and physical aspects of design.

Blue Room Reloaded

When considering how to re-use an old room, one is faced with the question of whether to preserve or modernise. To keep a space alive it is important to introduce contemporary elements. Belen have worked within the constraints of the Blue Room, (unchanged for almost a century) stretching time by binding together old and new materials and objects. Belen have designed objects that relate in different ways to the room, by duplicating, deforming, adding to, and celebrating its history.

The Table Tablett, acts as a surface to work on, protecting the delicate table underneath. It is made of a reflecting surface that mirrors the present, but which will eventually become history. The Space Screen functions as a layer through which we perceive the space differently and new perspectives come alive. The Tasseled Throw is a fresh thick textile mass to sit or lay on, which can be moved through the room to add warmth. Through these furnishings, Belen brings new life and function to the room and extends its legacy. The tension between the layer of patina and the modern materials further enriches the experience of the space.

BREADED ESCALOPE

breadedEscalope was founded in 2008 by Sascha Mikel, Martin Schnabl & Michael Tatschl after their studies at Kingston University, London. Their work aims to find new approaches and strategies for generating socially sustainable objects. The Viennese collective addresses issues of socioeconomic and cultural relevance and the work is understood as irritative elements.

Stack

During their stay in Hollenegg, Breaded Escalope became fascinated by one of the large trees in the park: having been hit by lightning it was now dead, and the long naked branches were covered by ivy. As they began to research, the designers came across the diaries of Prinz Heinrich. The younger brother of Prinz Alfred (who had been the second owner of Hollenegg), he had travelled to America in the 1860's, and impressed by the large redwood sequoias of California, he brought back saplings which were planted in Hollenegg.

It was decided the tree should be felled on the anniversary of Prinz Heinrich's birthday, and the wood used to make furniture that would last at least another 150 years. Because of the enormous amount of timber the tree provided, Breaded Escalope wanted to create a furniture system which would be a way of storing this incredible inheritance. They designed the archetypal furniture which brings a family together: a table. Different sizes planks are organised within cast-metal frames, acting as legs. Stack is a conceptual system to make different typologies of furniture with any kind of wood. In the years to come, the stored planks will perhaps be used to make new objects and in this way time is bought to make the right decisions in the future.

COMMONPLACE

Commonplace Studio is the Netherlands-based design practice of Jon Stam and Simon de Bakker, whose work focuses on context driven objects, quality craftsmanship, and quiet interactions. The studio frames autobiographical content, while addressing contemporary issues such as the increasing lack of tactility and other challenges posed by the digital.

Frames

Inside the walls of Schloss Hollenegg many treasures are preserved. But perhaps the most rich and captivating treasure of all, is the rural landscape around it, repeatedly framed by the apertures in the castle's walls. Commonplace Studio has chosen three viewing points from within the castle that look out onto the neighbouring woodlands: one in the Lesestube looking west, one in the Eisengang looking east and the last one, hidden behind the church, looking south. Once the locations were identified, they set off to explore each area on foot, establishing (and filming) a closer perspective. Adjacent to each outlook in the castle, Commonplace Studio has placed frames for the wall, that reproduce a scene deep within the forest.

By touching the frame, the static image starts to move slowly and steadily through the rich natural environment: the visitor is drawn in and has the feeling of entering the landscape. As the contact with the frame is interrupted, the moving image comes to a standstill, framing a new and ever changing portrait of the outside. The legacy of all castles can be directly tied to their surroundings, as there can be no castles without land. For the Liechtenstein family, the future is directly bound to the forest, as a successful management of the woodland is the principal resource that allows the up-keeping of Schloss Hollenegg. There is no castle without a forest.

ODD MATTER

Odd Matter are Dutch native Els Woldhek and Bulgarian Georgi Manassiev. They met while undertaking their MA studies at The Royal College of Art, and are now based in Rotterdam. The pairs common interest in the borders of creation, process and materials has put them on a shared path, operating across a wide range of disciplines.

I was here

Every day we have to decide on what to invest our energy. The same can be said of the choices we make regarding the places that surround us. We can choose to preserve, maintain and restore what is present and existing; we can decide to add objects, information, technologies; finally, we can opt to abandon, lose and throw away what we believe to be no longer valuable.

The room in Schloss Hollenegg in which Odd Matter chose to explore these ideas, is one of the Tapestries Bedrooms. A warm space in red tones, it is an eclectic mix of different eras and cultures, with seventeenth-century tapestries, oriental objects, renaissance furniture and boiserie doors inlaid with gold leaf. The four-poster bed is in red velvet with a consistency and brightness that, together with the gold leaf and glazed ceramic, are the inspiration for the project. Odd Matter have focused their attention on the old and worn carpet: some parts are lost, some can be preserved and something will be added. They have chosen to preserve a fragment from the old carpet and add a recognisable digital intervention by deforming it. All rest is lost. The carpet has been hand knotted in Nepal and produced in collaboration with Nodus.

Other Designers participating

Next to the four designers in residence, fifteen international designers will present new works, many of which especially commissioned for Schloss Hollenegg. The designers have been selected because of the outstanding quality of their work and the interest they have for experimentation and conceptual research in the field of design.

Chmara Rosinke, Elsa Boch, Erez Nevi Pana, Fernando Laposse, Guglielmo Poletti, James Shaw, Katie Stout, Laurids Gallée, Max Frommeld, Orikami Lab, Pallard Heymans, Roberto Sironi, Sigve Knutson, Studio B Severin and Studio Nienke Hoogvliet.