

# VINCENZO DE COTIIS

## ARCHAEOLOGY OF CONSCIOUSNESS

MILAN | 13 APR – 27 OCT 2024



CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY



Vincenzo De Cotiis Gallery presents *ARCHAEOLOGY OF CONSCIOUSNESS*, a series of sculptural works by Vincenzo De Cotiis in collaboration with Carpenters Workshop Gallery.

Throughout De Cotiis' practice, arches have maintained a recurring presence, symbolising their enduring significance within architectural history. By deconstructing and reevaluating these iconic vaulted forms, De Cotiis challenges the arch's ancient connotations, paving the way for fresh perspectives. While focusing on the archway as an architectural object, the sculptures undergo a deliberate distortion and transformation. Through this creative manipulation, De Cotiis challenges the long-held and unquestioned connotations associated with archways, presenting them as timeless entities.

For this exhibition, the artist created contemporary sculptures, inspired by ancient archways and made from rare marble, recycled fibreglass and Murano glass and crafted through a process of reclamation. In these artworks, the artist takes a perfectly conceived structure and reworks it in his own image, revolutionising the arch's ancient and previously unchallenged connotations. Representations that historically celebrate strength and triumph are transformed into amorphous archaeological rejects, simultaneously iconic yet neglected.

Presented within a contemporary ruin setting, De Cotiis' sculptures themselves appear as new ruins, artefacts suggestive of future archaeology. The artworks signify a vision of the future where nature has acted upon, interpreted and transformed these creations.









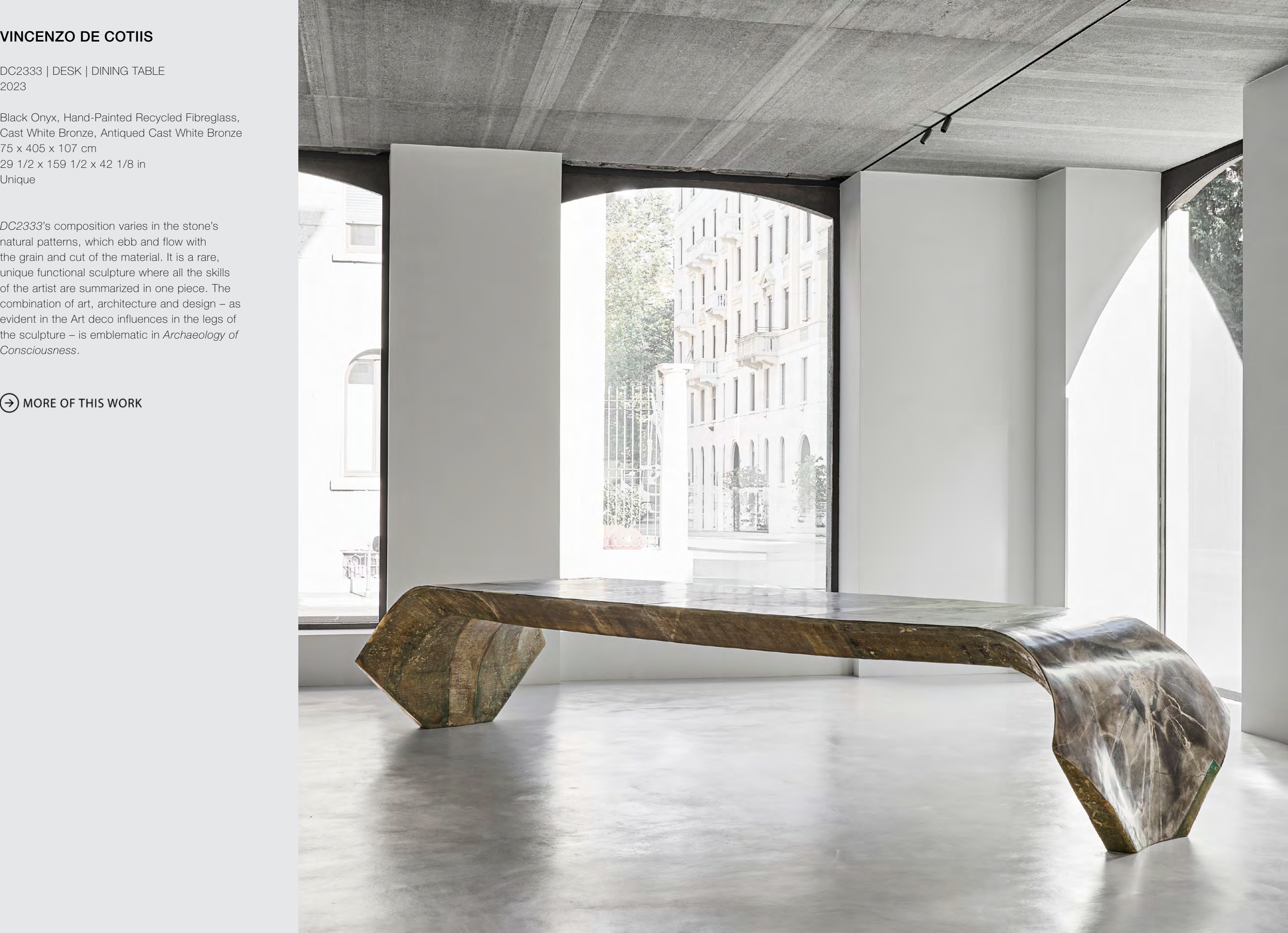
VINCENZO DE COTIIS

DC2333 | DESK | DINING TABLE  
2023

Black Onyx, Hand-Painted Recycled Fibreglass,  
Cast White Bronze, Antiqued Cast White Bronze  
75 x 405 x 107 cm  
29 1/2 x 159 1/2 x 42 1/8 in  
Unique

DC2333’s composition varies in the stone’s natural patterns, which ebb and flow with the grain and cut of the material. It is a rare, unique functional sculpture where all the skills of the artist are summarized in one piece. The combination of art, architecture and design – as evident in the Art deco influences in the legs of the sculpture – is emblematic in *Archaeology of Consciousness*.

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VINCENZO DE COTIIS

DC2330 | COFFEE TABLE  
2023

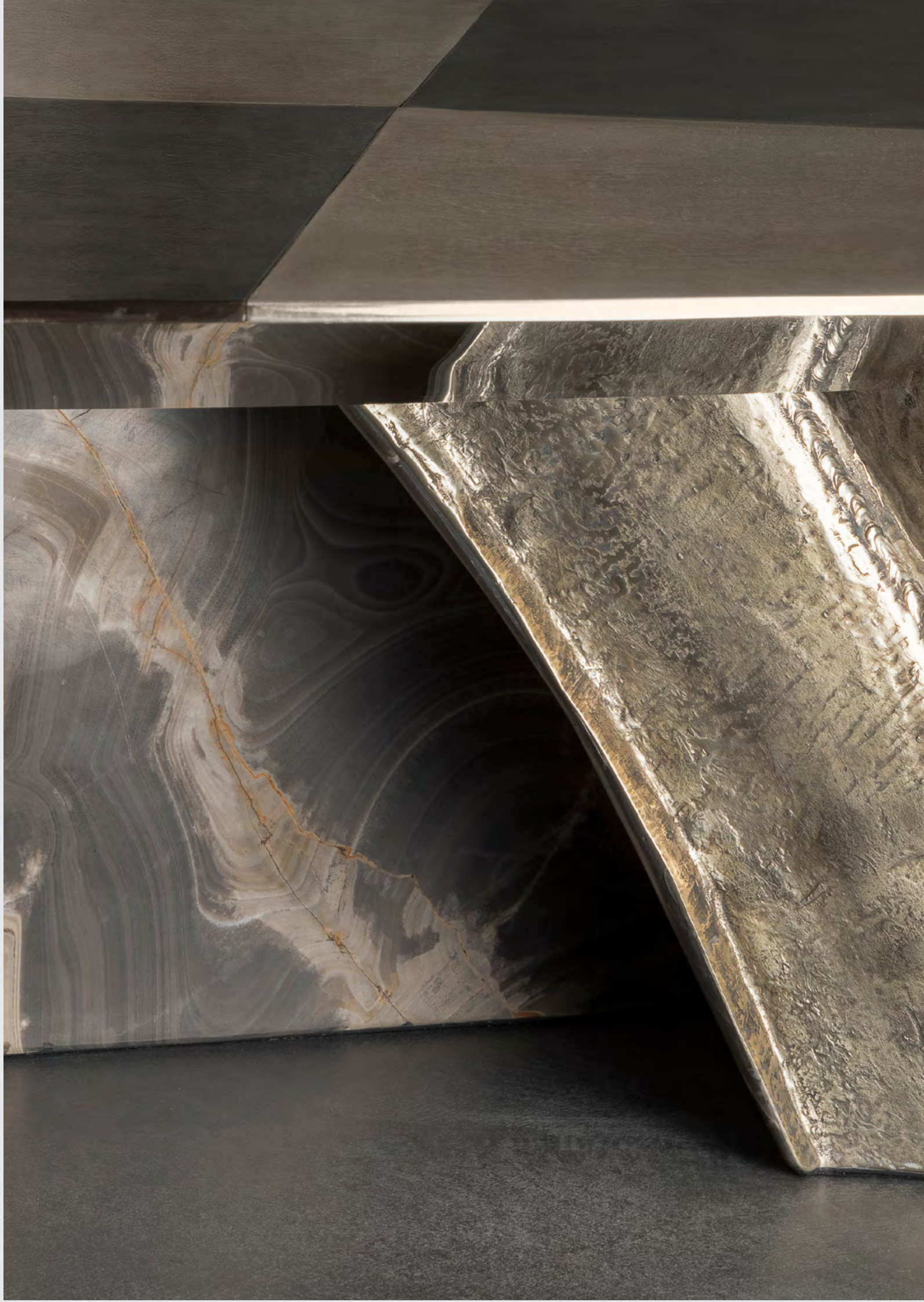
Cast White Bronze, Black Onyx  
41 x 170 x 160 cm  
16 1/8 x 66 7/8 x 63 in  
Edition of 8 plus 4 artist's proofs

Vincenzo De Cotiis looks both into the past and future when creating his sculptural pieces. He is deeply motivated by preservation and embodies this notion through objects that will endure into the future. Bronze and onyx are chosen for their robust and historical presence; they're combined seamlessly and the bronze is manipulated by the artist to create 'chiaroscuro'.

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VINCENZO DE COTIIS

DC2332 | BENCH  
2023

Black Onyx, Cast White Bronze,  
Antiqued Cast White Bronze  
45 x 185 x 65 cm  
17 3/4 x 72 7/8 x 25 5/8 in  
Edition of 8 plus 4 artist's proofs

Vincenzo De Cotiis' *DC2332* reimagines the Renaissance sculptural ideal of the arch through its rigid yet fluid structure and earthy colour scheme. Elongated with hexagonal end points, the piece is crafted from a blend of black onyx and bronze. It captures the essence of time and place, echoing the corrosion and sedimentation that affects ancient objects.

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VINCENZO DE COTIIS

UNTITLED 72  
2023

Cast White Bronze, Antiqued Cast  
White Bronze, German Silver,  
Antiqued German Silver  
10 x 566 x 320 cm  
4 x 222 7/8 x 126 in  
Unique

*Untitled 72* is a unique vertical sculpture from Vincenzo De Cotiis' collection *Archaeology of Consciousness*. Composed of five modules that the artist provocatively installed horizontally, the piece combines bronze and silver and is inspired but the shape of archaeological mosaic floors.

[➔ MORE OF THIS WORK](#)









VINCENZO DE COTIIS

DC2336 | BENCH  
2023

Black Onyx, Cast White Bronze  
42 x 93 x 52 cm  
16 1/2 x 36 5/8 x 20 1/2 in  
Edition of 8 plus 4 artist's proofs

With tenuous curves, *DC2336* seems compact yet inviting, and light to touch in the way it bends in the air. The marbled composition nods to far-distanced galaxies or the city sky at night, echoing time and history that's rooted in the sculpture's composition. Inspired by the practices of an ethnologist, Vincenzo De Cotiis delves deep into history, forging smooth geometries that emulate the arched silhouette of an urban skyline.

[➔](#) MORE OF THIS WORK









VINCENZO DE COTIIS

DC2335 | WALL LAMP  
2023

Cast Murano Glass, Cast White Bronze,  
German Silver, Recycled Fibreglass  
70 x 80 x 32 cm  
27 1/2 x 31 1/2 x 12 5/8 in  
Edition of 8 plus 4 artist's proofs

The idea of the arch infers a sensation of transition or passage beyond the mundane, towards the ancestral and heavenly. *DC2335* encapsulates this notion, alluding to both past and future. Its suspended form and composition of Murano glass, bronze, silver and recycled fibreglass are layered together to expose material variations on all sides of the arched piece.

[➔ MORE OF THIS WORK](#)





VINCENZO DE COTIIS

DC2334 | WALL LAMP  
2023

Cast Murano Glass, Cast White Bronze,  
German Silver, Recycled Fibreglass  
75 x 85 x 15 cm  
29 1/2 x 33 1/2 x 5 7/8 in  
Edition of 8 plus 4 artist's proofs

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*DC2334* deconstructs the architectural function of the arch, reinterpreting its structural, aesthetic and historic value. Its suspended form suggests it is a partially rediscovered relic, not yet fully uncovered from the wall. Its layered and earthy composition of Murano glass, bronze, silver and recycled fibreglass nods to the idea of historic sediment building up over time.





VINCENZO DE COTIIS

UNTITLED 76 | BENCH  
2024

Fibreglass resin, Stromatolite  
53 x 112 x 33 cm  
20 7/8 x 44 1/8 x 13 in  
Unique

*Archaeology of Consciousness* is a journey through layers of history, a discovery of forms and structures within the sediments of the past, and an exploration of their decay over time. Vincenzo De Cotiis expresses these themes through the concept of the arch. In *Untitled 76*, he projects classical and artificial elements onto the object. Using stromatolite for the first time in his practice, the artist is able to contrast the material with the fibreglass resin into a seamless blend of materiality.

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VINCENZO DE COTIIS

UNTITLED 71 | SIDE TABLE  
2023

Black Onyx, Cast Murano Glass,  
Recycled hand-painted Fibreglass  
50 x 40 x 40 cm  
19 3/4 x 15 3/4 x 15 3/4 in  
Unique

Vincenzo De Cotiis looks at parallel timelines of human history – of architecture, art, material discovery – and collapses these linear narratives in on themselves. In this way his artworks become singularities, atomic expressions of condensed expressions, ideas and forms. *Untitled 71* references many strands of these histories in its curved structure, its strong use of Murano glass imbuing the work with an inherent appreciation of expert craftsmanship.

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VINCENZO DE COTIIS

UNTITLED 73  
2023

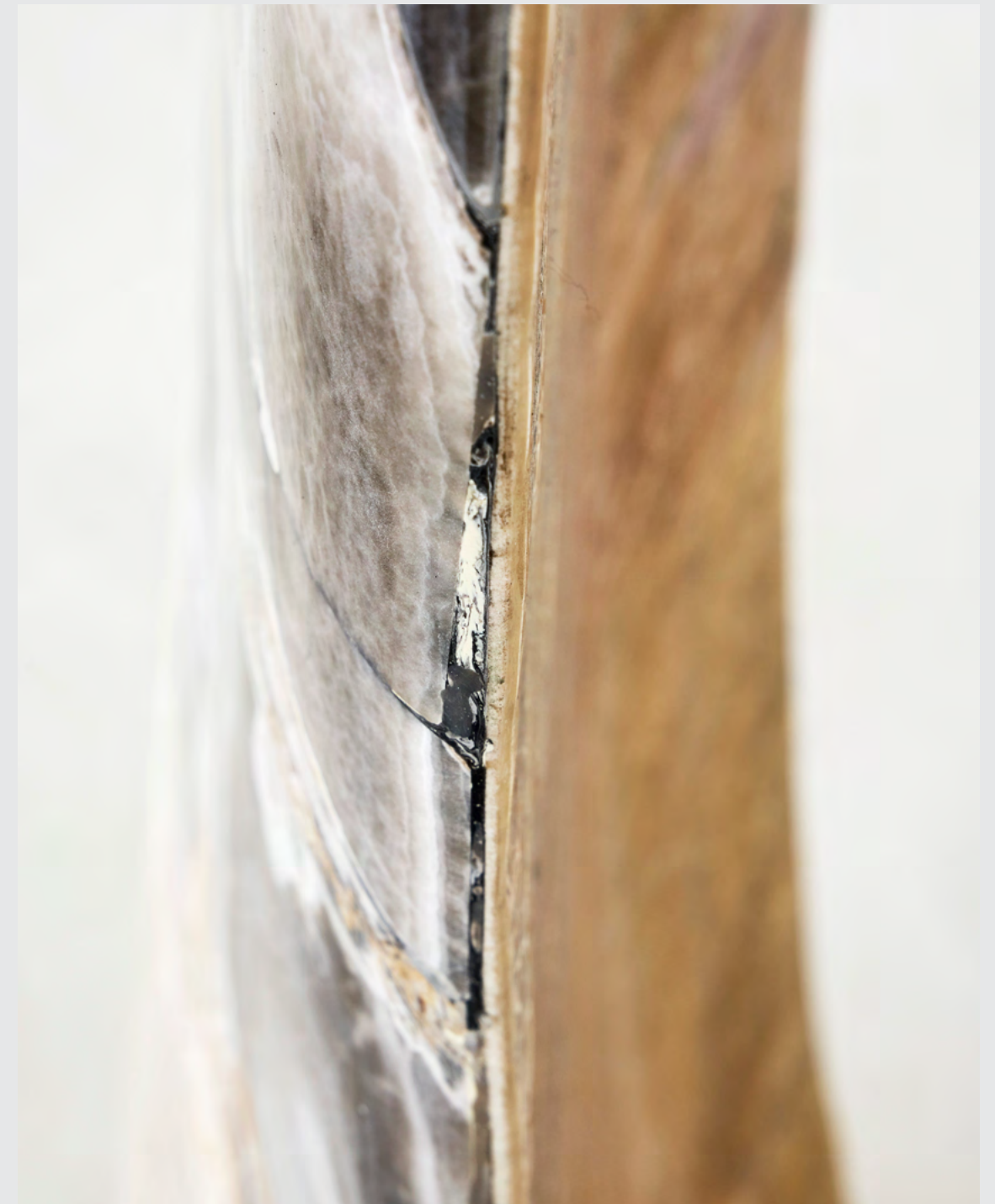
Hand-painted Recycled Fibreglass,  
Cast Murano Glass, Black Onyx  
210 x 80 x 60 cm  
82 5/8 x 31 1/2 x 23 5/8 in  
Unique

*Untitled 73* demonstrates Vincenzo De Cotiis' ability to synchronise many materials into one organism. The sculpture is an obelisk, another principal structure along with arches that represent human glory in the history of architecture.

[➔ MORE OF THIS WORK](#)









VINCENZO DE COTIIS

UNTITLED 79  
2024

Hand-Painted Recycled Fibreglass,  
Murano Cast Glass, Stromatolite  
66 x 42 x 42 cm  
26 x 16 1/2 x 16 1/2 in

*Untitled 79* is a result of searching for form via a process of reduction, rather than addition. The recycled fibreglass, stromatolite and Murano glass components are joined together seamlessly, as if one unified material. The sculpture has undergone a deliberate transformation, echoing Vincenzo De Cotiis' notion of challenging connotations associated with archways.

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