



## ALDO BAKKER

### ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Every convention – whether it concerns artistic legacy, beauty or plain purpose – needs to be challenged. And every creation is an exploration of the senses. From early on in his career Aldo Bakker (NL, 1971) has produced works in which his exquisite use of shape, material and colour is balanced with an almost disturbing tenacity in the way these pitchers, bowls, spoons, stools and tables defy everyday perceptions about the relationship between man and object. Or more precisely: the relationship between object and man. Because despite their tranquil appearance and the modesty of their monochrome skins, Bakker's objects are anything but submissive. They determine the rules of the interaction. Those who handle or merely observe them should come to terms with the inherent independence of these creatures. Their sensuous presence makes them highly seductive, but also hard to get. A bowl, a bench, a flask: all these 'objects fatales' could be (mis)taken for just being dead gorgeous and desirable, where in fact they undermine fixed notions about the object as a commodity.

Aldo Bakker rejected a formal arts training. As an autodidact he carefully studied the oeuvres of some of the most idiosyncratic artists of the modern age, ranging from composer Luigi Nono and painter Giorgio Morandi to writer J.M. Coetzee and architect Carlo Scarpa. With these masters, Bakker shares a fundamental interest for the language of their favoured medium. In fact, the introverted nature of his works, their elegant curves and facets, the depth of their surfaces and their flawless execution all contribute to the sensation that these artefacts tell their own stories in their own language. When they leave the studio – often after years of careful deliberation – the objects no longer bear witness to their maker, but exclusively to their own existence. To the questions they raise about the integrity of their being.

By positioning his works as individual characters, Aldo Bakker forces his audience to shift its perception. We are no longer looking at an inanimate object on which we project our knowledge of style, shape or material value. Instead, these creatures invite us to engage in a conversation about their behaviour, their

US.

Many of Aldo Bakker's works are unique pieces. Several are produced in small editions. Next to his independent studio production Bakker has also created commissioned works for companies like Georg Jensen, Karakter, Puiforcat, Sèvres and Swarovski. His work has been acquired by museums like Boijmans Van Beuningen (Rotterdam), MoMa (NY), Cooper Hewitt (NY), mudac (Lausanne), Philadelphia Museum of Art, Centre Pompidou (Paris), Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam and Victoria & Albert Museum (London). In 2016 and 2017 a major overview of his work was presented in the exhibition Pause (CID Grand Hornu, mudac Lausanne). Other solo exhibitions were staged at Atelier Courbet (NY), Gallery Libby Sellars (London), Looiersgracht 60 (Amsterdam), Villa Noailles in Hyeres and Vivid Gallery (Rotterdam).

In 2016 Alice Rawsthorn and Hans den Hartog Jager edited the monograph Aldo Bakker (NAI 010 Publishers NL).

Aldo Bakker received the Wallpaper Award 2011, First Prize at DDA 2009 and First Prize at Bornholm Glass (2008).

## EXHIBITIONS AND FAIRS

2020

/ Slow Motion, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Paris, France.

2019

/ Slow Motion Extended, Carpenters Workshop Gallery, New York, USA.

/ Making In, Joseph Walsh Studio, Cork, Ireland.

/ Geert Lap-Specific Objects, Design Museum Den Bosch, Hertogenbosch, Netherlands.

/ 'An Accelerated Culture', Friedman Benda, New York City, USA.

2018

/ Aldo Bakker Solo, Les Ateliers Courbet, New York City, USA.

/ Solo at Robert Malasch, Serieuze Zaken Art Gallery, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

/ 'The Domestic Plane: New Perspectives on Tabletop Art Objects', The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, USA.

/ U-Joints, Salone Del Mobile, Milano, Italy.

/ Karakter Copenhagen, Salone Del Mobile, Milano, Italy.

/ KunstRai, Wielingenstraat, Amsterdam

2017

/ 'Valuables', Atelier Lachaert Djanis, Temse, Belgium.

/ Karakter Milano, Salone Del Mobile, Milano, Italy.

/ Atelier Swarovski Home, Salone del Mobile, Milano, Italy.

/ 'Pause', MUDAC, Lausanne, Switzerland.

2016

/ 'Art & Design without boundaries', Espace Tajan, Paris, France.

/ 'Pause', Grand-Hornu, Hornu, Belgium.

/ Atelier Swarovski Home, Salone del Mobile, Milano, Italy.

2015

/ Design Miami, Galerie VIVID, Miami, USA.

/ PAN Amsterdam, Galery Vivid, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

/ Dutch Design Week, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands.

/ 'Figuras', Vienna Design Week, MAM, Vienna, Austria.

/ 'Containing Content', Looiersgracht 60, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

/ Design Miami/Basel, Galerie VIVID, Miami, USA.

/ 'Karakter', Salone del Mobile, Milano, Italy.

/ Design Days Dubai, Galerie Sofie Lachaert, Dubai, UAE.

/ Art Rotterdam, Galerie Vivid, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

2014

/ 'Superbox', Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

/ PAD London, London, UK.

/ 'Le Labo des Héritiers', Grand-Hornu Images, Hornu, Belgium.

/ Solo Exhibition, Galerie VIVID, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

/ Design Miami/Basel, Galerie VIVID, Miami, USA.

/ 'Aldo Bakker & The European Masters', Atelier Courbet, New York City, USA.

/ 'Quiz', Galerie Poirel, Nancy, France.

/ 'Wood', New Institute, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

/ 'Wallpaper\* Handmade', New York City, USA.

/ PAD Paris, Pavillon des Arts & Design, Paris, France.

/ 'Raw Art Fair', Particles Gallery, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

/ Art Rotterdam, Galerie VIVID, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

2013

/ 'Spaces In Between', Gallery Libby Sellers, Frieze, London, UK.

/ 'The Walled Garden', Galerie Brozo, Inside Design Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

/ International Design Exhibition, Bremen, Germany.

/ 'Locus of Control', Etage Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark.

/ Art Rotterdam, Galerie VIVID, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

/ Raw Art Fair, Particles Gallery, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

## AWARDS

2016

/ Masterclass Rijksstudio Award.

2014

/ Interior Innovation Award Cologne.

## LITERATURE

2018

/ C.Reinewald, Tongue, Aldo Bakker Studio, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2018.

2016

/ H. Den Hartog-Jager, A. Rawsthorn, Pause, NAI010 Publishers, 2016.

2015

/ N.Snijders/s, Notoadikusuma Eds, Aldo Bakker Containing Content, Looiersgracht 60, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2015

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