

11.10.2024 — 16.10.2024
11h00.19h00

downtown+

italia

peintures
Nicolas Mehdipour

Hôtel de l'Industrie
4 Place Saint Germain des Prés
75006

Press Release
September 2024



From October 11th to 16th, 2024, Luna Laffanour - downtown+ is delighted to present 'italia', a dialogue between Italian design and ultra-contemporary art at the Hôtel de l'Industrie. The exhibition brings together emblematic figures of Italian design such as Ettore Sottsass, Andrea Branzi, Superstudio, Pucci de Rossi, Gaetano Pesce, Carlo Mollino and Joe Colombo, with a selection of works by Nicolas Mehdipour, a rising artist of the contemporary scene.

italia offers an immersion of the intersection between art and design. Perfect illustrations of the conceptual and aesthetic evolutions that came out of the turmoil that punctuated the last century, the works of major design figures such as Carlo Mollino (1905-1973), Ettore Sottsass (1917-2007), Joe Colombo (1930-1971), Andrea Branzi (1938-2023), Gaetano Pesce (1939-2024), Pucci de Rossi (1947-2013) and Superstudio (founded in 1966 and dissolved in 1982), invite to discover the colourful world of Italian design in the second half of the 20th century.



Nicolas Mehdipour
Le jardin, oil on canvas, 162 x 130 cm, 2023
Ebi, oil on canvas, 96 x 60 cm, 2023
Païolive, oil on canvas, 35 x 27 cm, 2024

Sofa "Califfo", Ettore Sottsass 1964
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Iconic pieces such as Ettore Sottsass's "*Mobile Giallo*" (1988) and Andrea Branzi's "*Collez-Animali Domestici*" chair (1985), or Superstudio's "*Bazaar*" modular sofa (1968), blends the vibrant world of Nicolas Mehdipour, which combines abstraction and figuration, questioning our relationship with the living and evoking the artist's visceral link with contemporary. True to its identity, Luna Laffanour - downtown+ has put together an audacious exhibition in which styles and periods resonate through a contemporary prism.





Nicolas Mehdipour
Le jardin, oil on canvas, 162 x 130 cm, 2023

A portrait of Luna Laffanour, a young woman with dark hair, wearing a black ribbed sweater and a necklace with various pendants. She is looking directly at the camera against a light-colored wall.

About Luna Laffanour

Born in 1996, Luna Laffanour, daughter of Japanese artist Yumiko Seki and gallery owner François Laffanour, draws on the richness of her Franco-Japanese origins to nourish a singular vision of art and design. Driven by her passion for aesthetics, creativity and the arts, Luna continued her studies in the UK at the University of the Arts London. She then went on to study at the Camondo School, graduating in Interior Architecture and Design in 2020, before joining ESCP to specialise in the Management of Cultural Assets and Activities.

In 2021, she joins Laffanour | Galerie Downtown, founded in 1982 by François Laffanour, who has won international acclaim over the decades for his exhibitions of Jean Prouvé, Charlotte Perriand and Pierre Jeanneret. For Luna, the temptation to continue with the Laffanour | Galerie Downtown adventure is mixed with the desire to emancipate herself, to stand out and to invent.

About downtown+

Created in 2023 on the initiative of Laffanour | Galerie Downtown and Luna Laffanour, downtown + brings together pieces from the gallery's collection and works with young contemporary artists. Over the decades, Laffanour | Galerie Downtown has showcased the work of 20th-century modernist architects, gaining international acclaim for its exhibitions of Jean Prouvé, Charlotte Perriand and Pierre Jeanneret.

In a desire to explore the gallery's heritage, Luna Laffanour is taking a fresh look at these multiple collections through a series of exhibitions, both physical and digital, combining design and contemporary art.



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Chair « Collez-Animali Domestici », Andrea Branzi, 1985

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