

PURE GOLD

UPCYCLED!
UPGRADED!

An exhibition by ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e.V., Stuttgart, Germany, www.ifa.de) with the collaboration of Goethe-Institut and Disseny Hub Barcelona.

Exhibition

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Volker Albus

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Organized by

ifa Institut für
Auslandsbeziehungen

 GOETHE
INSTITUT

Collaborators

DHub

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56thStudio /
Saran Yen Panya (THA)
Cheap Ass Elites
2015

This furniture combines plastic crates and Victorian-style wooden chair legs, juxtaposing these two elements to "high" and "low" in both sociological and design terms.



Picture Credits:
Saran Yen Patnya, Thailand,
www.56thStudio.com

Massimiliano Adami (ITA)
Fossili Moderni
2006

Everyday plastic objects like buckets, tubs, children's toys, the housings of electric devices - all trash, plastic trash. The designer cuts these items up, cleans them, and rearranges them using grey polyurethane foam to make shelves, lamps and boards in useable furniture.



Picture Credits:
Massimiliano Adami, Italy,
www.massimilianoadami.it

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Volker Albus (DEU)

www/www

we want wind/we want water
2015

Cork and granulated cork are finely ground and pressed into blocks using synthetic resin or cut into shapes, including footballs, rugby balls, basketballs, handballs, volleyballs and medicine balls. The material is waterproof and wind resistant. Perfect for the seaside - where any other ball might sink or be blown away.



Picture Credits:
Philip Radowitz, Germany,
www.radowitz.com
Volker Albus, Germany,
albus@123va.de,
Philip Radowitz, Germany,
www.radowitz.com

7

David Amar (GBR)

Raymond table

(2010) new edition, 2015

Old bleached, varnished and stained or cut boards from a builder's merchant or DIY store. Short boards and long ones, wide and narrow boards are mounted as they come, between three, four or five cast aluminium holders and then joined mechanically into tables. Special and always unique.



Picture Credits:
David Amar Studio, United Kingdom,
www.davidamar.co.uk

8

Yuttana Anothaisintawee (THA)
Rodeo
2012

Garmento board is a very durable material that aesthetically represents the rustic Wild West. The material is as functional as any wood composite. It can be cut into parts and installed on a wooden or metal structure.



Picture Credits:
Frank Kleinbach, Germany,
www.frank-kleinbach.de
Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e. V. (ifa),
Germany,
www.ifa.de

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Marjan van Aubel (GBR/NLD) &
James Michael Shaw (GBR)
The Well Proven Chair
2012

Sawdust is actually a powder with no form. When resin is added, it becomes wooden foam that can be shaped. And it is very durable. On the one hand it is smoothed out to make seats and backrests, and on the other to amorphous rounded shapes that are placed and fixed between the bars..



Picture Credits:
Petr Krejčí, United Kingdom,
www.petrkrejci.com
Marjan van Aubel & James Michael Shaw,
United Kingdom,
www.wellprovenchair.com

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Marjan van Aubel (GBR/NLD) &
James Michael Shaw (GBR)
The Well Proven Stool
2012

Sawdust is actually a powder with no form. When resin is added, it becomes wooden foam that can be shaped. And it is very durable. On the one hand it is smoothed out to make seats and back-rests, and on the other to amorphous rounded shapes that are placed and fixed between the bars.



Picture Credits:
Frank Kleinbach, Germany,
www.frank-kleinbach.de
Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e. V. (ifa),
Germany,
www.ifa.de

15

Bär + Knell (DEU)
„Maggi“-Group
1995

Ampolles de quètxup, detergent i altres envasos de plàstic es trituren, es fonen i es modelen per extrusió, tot creant una planxa monocolor de suport. A continuació, com si fos una funda, la planxa tova es "llança" sobre el motlle negatiu del futur moble. El modelatge es fa pràcticament sol: gràcies a la seva consistència tova, el material s'adapta al model assignat amb gran facilitat.



Crèdits de la imatge:
Frank Kleinbach, Alemanya,
www.frank-kleinbach.de
Institut de Relacions Exteriors(ifa),
Alemanya,
www.ifa.de

16

Roswitha Berger-Gentsch (DEU)
Conical Neck Vessel
2012

Corrugated card, in single, double or triple layers, taken primarily from waste cardboard boxes from discount supermarkets like Lidl and Aldi, are cut into rings with very thin edges and then glued together in layers. Depending on how this is then used in the finished amphora, the edges can be continuously straight, slanting or just slightly angular. But always very precise. This work is done by hand, to exact measurements, with a great deal of patience. Over weeks and months. The result: a Roman-Germanic Federal-Republican. Completely unique.



Picture Credits:
Frank Kleinbach, Germany,
www.frank-kleinbach.de
Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e. V. (ifa),
Germany,
www.ifa.de

17

Sandra Böhm (DEU)
Prei
Shelf 01
2012

Paper, glue, and pulverized stone are soaked and mixed to produce a mash. This mash is filled into two simple but very precise brick moulds and then left to itself. The result is shelves, stools and other small items of furniture. As hard as stone.



Picture Credits:
Philip Radowitz, Germany,
www.radowitz.com
kkaarlls,
Staatliche Hochschule für Gestaltung Karlsruhe,
Germany,
www.kkaarlls.com

22

Fernando Brízio (PRT)

Furo
2010

Cork. Granulated cork. Finely ground and pressed into blocks using synthetic resin. Or cut into shapes, for bowls or stools. Round, angular. Thin, thick. Adapted to each idea.



Picture Credits:
Luís Silva Campos, Portugal,
www.luissilvacampos.com

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Laetitia de Allegri (CHE) &
Matteo Fogale (URY)

-ISH Tray 3
2014

Jeans, used and worn out. Old clothes, with not much use left in them. At some point all pairs of trousers are ready to be thrown out. But they are a material resource that can be pressed and shaped into something completely new - tables and trays, as tough as denim!



Picture Credits:
Amandine Alessandra, United Kingdom, <http://theinteriorphotographer.co.uk>

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Laetitia de Allegri (CHE) &
Matteo Fogale (URY)
-ISH Side Table 1
2014

Jeans, used and worn out. Old clothes, with not much use left in them. At some point all pairs of trousers are ready to be thrown out. But they are a material resource that can be pressed and shaped into something completely new - tables and trays, as tough as denim!



Picture Credits:
Laetitia de Allegri, Switzerland, <http://laetitiadeallegri.com>
& Matteo Fogale, Uruguay, <http://matteofogale.com>

29

Piet Hein Eek (NLD)
Beam armchair with cushions
2013

Wooden beams, wooden boards, weathered, well stored, with the nails removed, and cleaned. Rough and rustic, very large. Put together one by one in old carpenter's fashion. The cushions are covered in military tent canvas. Hardy and tough. Stains are not an issue. Put into use, this furniture can last forever.



Picture Credits:
Nob Ruijgrok, The Netherlands,
<http://pietheineek.nl>
Piet Hein Eek, The Netherlands,
<http://pietheineek.nl>

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El Ultimo Grito (GBR)
FREE RANGE stools
(2012) 2015

Cardboard boxes and corrugated cardboard boxes, squashed into blocks, made into stools, pressed. But only approximately - height and the seat are perfectly moulded. Using plastic fortified with glass fibre, they are stabilized and preserved. They are light, practical and robust. And each one is a little different.



Picture Credits:
El Ultimo Grito, United Kingdom,
www.eugstudio.com

31

Juli Foos (FIN)
Large Donut Rug
2012

White plastic bags, shaped into 201 "Donuts" using cardboard discs. Fat Donuts, all the same size. Soft and pleasant for the feet. All of them woven together with strips of colourful plastic, red, blue, green, yellow - in clear geometrical shapes. Almost oriental. And if needed, easy to repair.



Picture Credits:
Frank Kleinbach, Germany,
www.frank-kleinbach.de
Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e. V. (ifa),
Germany,
www.ifa.de

32, 33

Gompf + Kehrer (DEU)
paper table - low version
2013

paper table - mid size
2010

Old paper, paper with printing errors, material for paper recycling containers. Or the starting material for thin paper rolls, made into rings that produce layered conical corpuses, the bases for small tables or plinths.



Picture Credits:
Gompf + Kehrer, Germany,
www.gompf-kehrer.com

34

Breg Hanssen (NLD)
Framed cabinet
2011

Wooden panels made of newspaper. The paper is layered in a slight curve and glued together. Instead of the rings of the years we have paper layer rings. Large boards, from which smaller single "boards" are cut and shaped. The rest is the work of the carpenter.



Picture Credits:
Vij5, The Netherlands,
<http://vij5.nl>

35, 36

Brunno Jahara (BRA)
Multiplástica Doméstica
2013

Multiplástica Doméstica
2012

The series uses plastic utensils industrially manufactured and sold in 99-cent stores allied to old components and connectors. The objects are never the same, as the components' shapes and colours combinations always vary.



Picture Credits:
Frank Kleinbach, Germany, www.frank-kleinbach.de
Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e. V. (ifa),
Germany, www.ifa.de

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Laura Jungmann (DEU) &
Cornelius Réer (DEU)
SAMESAME
2014

Wine, water, beer bottles - all standard bottles. Already in finished form, but now cleaned and with the labels removed. They are also raw glass, or parts for new manufacturing. Heated to high temperatures, they can be reshaped - to vases or jugs for water, wine or juice. Or for flowers.



Picture Credits:
Philip Radowitz, Germany,
www.radowitz.com [kkaarrlls](http://www.kkaarrlls.com),
Staatliche Hochschule für Gestaltung Karlsruhe,
Germany,
www.kkaarrlls.com

40

Junk Munkez (LBN)
Knit-Knacks
2012

In their line, the two designers create sturdy stools by using old washing machine drums. The stools build on Arab and Islamic tradition of design where colorful geometry used to cover building and artifacts.



Picture Credits:
Frank Kleinbach, Germany,
www.frank-kleinbach.de
Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e. V. (ifa),
Germany,
www.ifa.de

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Tobias Juretzek (DEU)
Rememberme Chair
2011

Trousers, shirts, and skirts, the old left-over items of clothing. Broken, worn out, too big, too small - no longer wearable. But full of memories. It is a shame to throw them out, to give them to recycling collectors. Pressed into new shapes, into chairs, they can still be "owned" and used. With all the memories.



Picture Credits:
Max Zambelli/Stylist Beatrice Rossetti Studio,
Italy,
www.casamania.it
Casamania, Italy,
www.casamania.it

42

Dhara Kabaria /
studio Alternatives (IND)

Rocking Chair
2003

Her first experimental chair utilized old rubber tyres and was created for external spaces; then she created an interior version with a more elegant finish.



Picture Credits:
Dhara Kabaria, India,
www.studioalternatives.com

45, 46

Silvia Knüppel (DEU)
Frankfurter Mélange #2
(Version Rabenauer Stuhl)
2015

Frankfurter Mélange #3
(Version Thonet 233)
2015

Rabenau Chair, Thonet Chair, Frankfurt Chair. Classics, chairs that people get attached to, Chairs that are passed on from one generation to the next. But they too get old, fade, and lose their shape. At least partly. The rest remains: a Rabenau, a Thonet, a Frankfurt chair. Together they make something new.



Picture Credits:
Tobias Bäermann, Germany,
www.tobiasbaermann.de Silvia Knüppel,
Germany,
www.silviaknueppel.com

49

Dirk Vander Kooij (NLD)
Endless Chair
2010

Fridges and washing machines use lots of plastic, in the shelves, the vegetable trays, the egg trays, and in their interior and exterior cladding. Masses of raw material. Melted and extracted as pressed plastic through a jet nozzle, the material is then shaped by a robot into chairs, vases, and many other things, as programmed.



Picture Credits:
Studio Dirk Vander Kooij, The Netherlands, www.dirkvanderkooij.nl

52

Jakob Michael Landes (DEU)
Dude
2013

Skateboards, transportation made of multiplex cut to make for ski-shaped mobility. Never completely plane, always slightly curved - like a ski. Cut into single slats, they are used to make slim lampshades. With another cut, they can be small comfortable stools, perfectly fitting and ergonomic.



Picture Credits:
Frank Kleinbach, Germany,
www.frank-kleinbach.de
Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e. V. (ifa),
Germany,
www.ifa.de

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Ramón Llonch /
Artlanticque (ESP)
Palmarin armchair
2014

Decommissioned fishing boats: Artlanticque transforms the material into contemporary furniture pieces. The salvaged wood and faded surface decoration of each fishing boat is carefully graded, and is then matched to a specific design.



Picture Credits:
Joël Ventura García, Spain,
www.timelabstudio.com
Ramón Llonch, Spain,
www.artlanticque.com

54

Mieke Meijer (NLD)
New Hybrids
2014

Wooden panels made of newspaper. The paper is layered in a slight curve and glued together. Instead of the rings of the years we have paper layer rings. Large boards, from which smaller single "boards" are cut and shaped. The rest is the work of the carpenter.



Picture Credits:
Raw Cocor, The Netherlands, www.rawcolor.nl
Studio Mieke Meijer, The Netherlands, <http://miekemeijer.nl>

55, 56, 57

Waltraud Münzhuber (DEU)
"The Bugs Bunny Show"
2015

"Death in Venice"
2015

"Forrest Gump"
2015

Magnetic tape, hundreds of metres of it, a medium for images and sounds. Fine, shining strips like paper streamers, anthracite coloured, with a silver glow. Fragile, but stable when densely woven. Memory turned into product.



Picture Credits:
Frank Kleinbach, Germany,
www.frank-kleinbach.de
Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e. V. (ifa),
Germany,
www.ifa.de

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Hamed Ouattara (BFA)
Dogon stool
2016

The materials gleaned from the detritus of daily life include plastic and metal, most notably discarded oil barrels. With the bright colours of the worn scuffed surfaces the designer gives them their distinctive signature style.



Picture Credits:
Frank Kleinbach,
Germany,
www.frank-kleinbach.de
Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e. V. (ifa),
Germany,
www.ifa.de

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Micaella Pedros (GBR)
Joining Bottles
2016

Builder's wood, logs, wooden scraps. Squared timber, wooden blocks and boards. Sorted, cleaned, reworked into ready-to-fit components and laid alongside each other. These loose parts are affixed with rings made out of PET bottles - joining bottles. Once in place, they only need to be heated, and small items of furniture are ready. Robust, stable and hardy. Just like builders' wood.



Picture Credits:
Micaella Pedros, United Kingdom,
www.micaellapedros.com

60

Piratas do Pau /
Nelsa Guambe (MOZ)
Mulher-Woman
2016

The designer turns old water heaters into products. The illustrations depicted on the wine rack expresses her observations of society, and in particular pay homage to the daily life of women in her country.



Picture Credits:
Nelsa Guambe, Mozambique,
www.nelsaguambe.com

61

Sahil & Sarthak (IND)
Katran High Back Chair
2010

The product is crafted from colourful rope wound around a metal framework. The rope is made from waste fabric discarded by export houses or textile mills, which is collected and sold at market.



Picture Credits:
Sahil Bagga, India,
www.sahilsarthak.com
Sarthak Sahil Design Co., India,
www.sahilsarthak.com

64, 65

Peter Schäfer (DEU)
Tape Pot_high tiled
Tape Pot_razzle dazzle
2015

Tape: wide sticky tape, transparent, coloured, striped, or with advertising on it. Intended to be used just once. The moment it is applied it is already used up, almost rubbish already. Unless you see it as material that can be shaped and designed. Raw material that can be used to make bowls or buckets. That remains.



Picture Credits:
Frank Kleinbach, Germany,
www.frank-kleinbach.de
Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e. V. (ifa),
Germany,
www.ifa.de

66

Diederik Schneemann (NLD)

Flip Flop
2011

Flip-flops. A sole, a V-shaped strap. Done. And thus very cheap. Worn on the beach and by water, where they are then often left behind, washed away and then washed up again. Then collected. Glued together and cut into the shapes of lamps, baskets and small items of furniture.



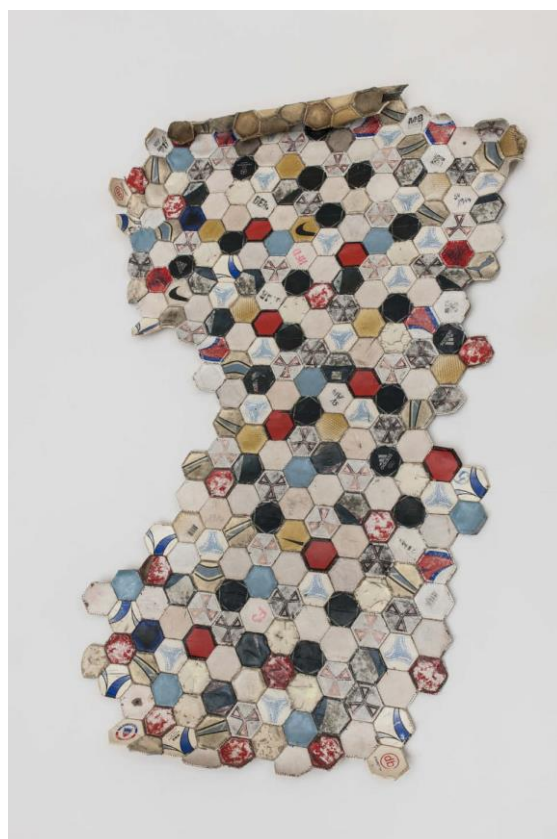
Picture Credits:
Martin Minkenberg, The Netherlands, www.defactofotography.com
Diederik Schneemann, The Netherlands, www.studioschneemann.com

69

Janina Stübler (DEU)

Football Carpet
2009

Seen geometrically, footballs are Buckminsterfullerenes, spherical molecules in pentagonal and hexagonal shapes. Only when combined, can a "ball" be formed, but pentagons alone cannot lead to complex forms. Hexagonal patches of leather by contrast form a patchwork, tiles, or carpet-like surface.



Picture Credits:
Frank Kleinbach, Germany, www.frank-kleinbach.de
Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e. V. (ifa),
Germany, www.ifa.de

70

Domingos Tótoro (BRA)
Fruit Bowl with Friezes
2007

The product is made of cellulose pulp applied on moulds and dried in the sun. Workers use their hands to set the pulp, so that even though they are produced in series no object is identical to the next.



Picture Credits:
Domingos Tótoro, Brazil,
www.domingostotora.com.br

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Domingos Tótoro (BRA)
Solo Bench
2010

The designer places on iron feet seats made of recycled cardboard pulp with organic shapes alluding to stones found nearby.



Picture Credits:
Domingos Tótoro, Brazil,
www.domingostotora.com.br

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Zhang Han & Sui Hao &
Li Hua (CHN)

Melaleuca Chair No.1
2014

The product is made using the traditional process to produce multi-layered cloth shoes - an ancient Chinese craft. The technique is based on layers of cotton and uses emulsion for hardening, then sewing with linen thread. This design however uses smooth skin-friendly surface textures to replace the original rough textiles, making the chair more practical.



Picture Credits:
Frank Kleinbach, Germany,
www.frank-kleinbach.de
Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e. V. (ifa),
Germany,
www.ifa.de

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Text: Rossend Casanova

77

Álvaro Catalán de Ocón (ESP)

Lamp PET Lamp
2019

The PET Lamp light is filled with recycled plastic bottles in order to give continuity to an object that, with a few minutes of useful life, takes centuries to decompose. The bottles serve as the basis for the pants, woven by hand with vegetable fibers in different parts of the world, which gives them unique finishes.



Picture Credits:
ACDO, Spain
<https://catalandeocon.com/>

78

Ximo Roca & Bonestil (ESP)

Armchair Europa
1999

This armchair, with a beech wood structure, features a seat and backrest with a woven recycled paper. This material, which gives it a certain ductility, is reused in an unexpected and unconventional way. Its author designed, as a complement, a bench to rest the feet on, also made of beech wood and recycled paper.



Picture Credits:
La Fotogràfica
DHub. Col·leccions MADB 136.888
<https://cataleg.museudeldisseny.cat>

79

Vaho & Vaho Works SL (ESP)

Bag Tóquio
1999

This bag, designed to be hung, is made from the PVC advertising banners that are hung on the lampposts in the streets of Barcelona. Once clean, the fabrics are cut and sewn to give life to new objects, such as cases, wallets, purses or bags like this one. Advertising, once obvious, now becomes a fragmented message for the new recycled object.



Picture Credits:
La Fotogràfica
DHub. Col·leccions MADB 138.426
<https://cataleg.museudeldisseny.cat>

80

Nani Marquina i Ariadna Miquel & Nani-marquina (ESP)

Rug Bicicleta
2005

This rug, of considerable dimensions and great presence, is made from rubber bicycle inner tubes. It is a conceptual, sustainable and original object. Each carpet uses between 130 and 140 inner tubes from tires, collected and handled in India. The material is 100% recycled and its design has a clear intention to care for the environment.



Picture Credits:
La Fotogràfica
DHub. Col·leccions MADB 138.412
<https://cataleg.museudeldisseny.cat>

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Curro Claret (ESP)

Suspension lamp Porex
2001

This lamp reuses the Porexpan packaging protection used to transport bulky objects. You can make both lights and protections if you want to recycle, always according to the shapes and possibilities of each one. The author installs the lamp holders and a wiring for its suspension. The result is a surprising, original object that gives new life to a material intended for single use.



Picture Credits:
Museu del Disseny de Barcelona
DHub. Col·leccions MADB 138.576
<https://cataleg.museudeldisseny.cat>