

MULLER VAN SEVEREN

Frames

10 October - 23 November 2024



Tim Van Laere Gallery presents *Frames*, Muller Van Severen's first solo exhibition at the gallery. Over the past 15 years, Muller Van Severen has developed a synergistic body of work that continually explores the boundaries between sculpture and functional objects. This exhibition is the first time they are presenting a series of works that are all unique.

The exhibition *Frames* can be seen as a total installation, an all-encompassing universe of form, color, light, reflection and transparency. More than 30 works are brought together in the monumental space of Tim Van Laere Gallery, in which the artist duo seek for the most essential sculptural impact through minimal intervention.

For *Frames*, Muller Van Severen always starts from a single plate, from which openings and depths arise through cutting and folding not only providing space for function, but also bridging the gap between reality and imagination. From the flat surface of the plate, a sculpture emerges that moves between abstraction and figuration. With *Frames*, Muller Van Severen create a fictional world of images, where alternative intrinsic meanings and possibilities are expressed, balancing between realism and surrealism.

For this, the duo draws inspiration from various architectural forms. Even though functionality remains a defining factor for each individual object, what stands out first is the celebration of the possibilities of pure geometric forms in this total installation. In doing so, Muller Van Severen reminds us of the bold visual vocabulary of geometric forms in different colors introduced by the Suprematists. The works *Frame 17* and *Frame 20* can even be seen as a clear reference to Malevich's installation for *The Last Futurist Exhibition of Paintings 0.10* in 1915.

Muller Van Severen, however, are going further and not only want to demonstrate a pared-down use of form and color, but they also want these forms to become an essential part of our daily lives, inviting everyone to use and inhabit their sculptures. In doing so, they build on the principles introduced to the art world by Franz West, who emphasized the participatory value of art in his oeuvre. It was Franz West who caused a radical revolution declaring furniture as art. Whereas for Franz West, furniture pieces were “adaptives for the body at rest,” Muller Van Severen look for ways in which furniture can shape our lives and what its impact is on both spaces and users. How do these objects enhance the dialogue between us, each other and the space? This approach to furniture as an art object can be compared to Gordon Matta-Clark's approach to architecture and art. Like Matta-Clark, Muller Van Severen places themselves on the periphery in order to appropriate the freedom to break the existing conventions of both art and design.

About Muller Van Severen

Fien Muller and Hannes Van Severen initiated their artistic collaboration as Muller Van Severen in the spring of 2011. Their quest focuses on the creation of objects with a distinct sculptural quality, explicitly involving the surrounding space and its dynamics in the creation process. The outcome of this dialogue between form, space and functionality manifests itself in several collections that propose a reinterpretation of the interaction with the environment.

Having won numerous awards and exhibited in museums and galleries worldwide (Musée des Arts Décoratifs Paris, Galerie Kreo, Massimo De Carlo, Andreas Murkudis, Tim Van Laere Gallery), Muller Van Severen is considered one of the most iconic European design studios today. Their work is part of several public collections such as Vitra Design Museum (DE), Centre Pompidou (FR), Le Grand-Hornu (BE), Musée des Arts Décoratifs (FR), Design Museum Gent (BE) and CNAP, Centre National des Arts Plastiques (FR).