

Présent >< Futur: the Cité du design showcases Guillaume Bloget, a designer in search of the essence of objects

Launched last September by the Cité du design, the Présent > < Futur cycle presents a panorama of a new generation of designers through a series of monographic exhibitions and a collection of publications. After the colourful, digital world of Laureline Galliot, the spotlight now falls on the work of designer Guillaume Bloget.

Être là is his first solo exhibition, which runs from 15 February to 23 June 2024 in Saint-Étienne. You will discover a sensitive, subtle, muted experiential world.

The pared-down scenography, constructed around a central feature, effectively conveys his quest for the essential and questions the relationship between object and space.

Present >< Future

No. 2

Guillaume Bloget, *Être là*

Exhibition at the Cité du design

From 15 February to 23 June

2024

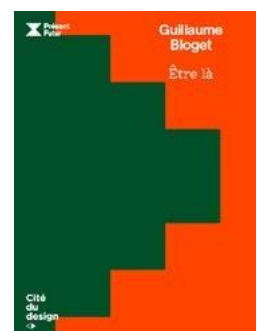
Guillaume Bloget, *Être là*

Designed to be a snapshot of Guillaume Bloget's work, this exhibition features about forty projects, publications, mock-ups and prototypes, brought together in one place to highlight his cross-cutting practice of design. Guillaume Bloget's vision is a holistic, optimistic one in which humans and objects live in harmony in a sensitive proximity to the world. His scenography forms a "suggested space" inspired by American artist Robert Irwin's installation *Who's Afraid of Red, Yellow and Blue* (1966-1970). It consists of a luminous floor and ceiling of the same size. The central installation designed by Guillaume Bloget can be seen as a single whole or in its details, when the visitor comes in closer and walks around its edges. As the viewer's angle of view changes, the objects are superposed and connections between them appear. For this exhibition, the designer was invited to embark on a creative adventure with the Verrerie de Saint-Just glassworks in Loire, France, to highlight the exceptional know-how of this company famous for its coloured hand-blown sheet glass.

Accompanying book

The Présent >< Futur cycle is accompanied by a collection of publications tied in with the exhibitions, and the latest addition is a book on Guillaume Bloget, *Être là*. This sixty-page book includes a text analysing the practices of Guillaume Bloget commissioned from the exhibition curator Mathilde de Croix, a large selection of visuals with accompanying commentaries as well as a focus on the creative experience undertaken with the partner firm, La Verrerie de Saint-Just and on its know-how.

Guillaume Bloget, *Être là* — Éditions de la Cité du design — Présent >< Futur collection
Publication: February 2024 — Language: bilingual French/English — Collection directed by Laurence Salmon





Sharp, 2023. Kayak, Aluminium and cork, 477 x 70 x 32 cm. Project carried out with craftsman Antoine Rivière and Association Rhizome (Ouroux-en-Morvan) during a residency in November 2022 Photo credits: Guillaume Bloget



Front cover of the book *La boule de pétanque* published by *Les Collections Typologie* in 2017, Editorial design by Guillaume Bloget, Raphaël Daufresne, Thélonious Goupil and Guillaume Jandin, Graphic design by Lisa Sturacci and Anne Lise Bachelier © Collections Typologie

Typologie, to travel to the sources of familiar objects

This collection offers a new way of looking at ordinary objects. Each book is devoted to one type of object. It provides an inventory of all the object's forms, documents its history, explores the secrets of its manufacture and brings together the views of different specialists.

Les Collections Typologie is a French publishing house founded by four designers: Raphaël Daufresne, Thélonious Goupil, Guillaume Bloget and Guillaume Jandin.

“Instead of adding to the mass, we want to subtract the superfluous to bring the essential into the light. That has led us to take an interest in the everyday objects that structure the fabric of day-to-day life.”

Guillaume Bloget, a designer searching for the true expression of the object

Guillaume Bloget is an independent designer based in Paris. He graduated from ENSCI-Les Ateliers with distinction in 2016. After working for designer Marc Berthier and architect Dominique Perrault, he set up his own industrial design studio in 2018. His work seeks to establish economical relations between material, technique and usage. He tries to find fluidity in the convergence of gestures to achieve a final form. He has developed this approach in collaborations with different firms in the industrial and craft sectors, including Hermès, Ligne-Roset, Nemo Lighting, Maison Richard, Oros. Since 2016, he has been exploring the history and manufacturing of everyday objects with Les Typologie, collective he co-founded. In 2019, its research work was the subject of an exhibition at the Vitra Design Museum: *Typologie: An Ongoing Study of Everyday Items*.



Photo credits: Louis Bloget

- 2010:** Second prize in the Cinna Révélateur de talents competition, for the *Simplex* lamp
- 2016:** Graduated from ENSCI-Les Ateliers with distinction, with a bioclimatic mountain refuge project
- 2017:** Launch of Typologie with The Petanque Boule show at the Jasper Morrison Shop during the London Design Festival
- 2019:** Finalist in the City of Paris Grands Prix de la Création.
- 2020:** Rhizome Association residency in the Morvan Regional Nature Park.
- 2020:** Three-month residency at the Workspace at CERCCO, the Experimentation and Research Centre for Contemporary Ceramics at HEAD (Geneva University of Art and Design).
- 2023:** Art director for the Nemo Lighting general catalogue and development of the *Type* range.

“Objects are small architectures and architectures are large objects.”



“I wanted to design objects as a continuation of architecture, as if there were no separation between them and to find a harmonious balance in the object/space relationship.”



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“When I design an object, I am not trying to express something singular. I am just looking for a true expression of the object, of its nature. I think about the meaning of the action that it will condition and I try to translate that into the form.”

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“The designer's eternal challenge lies in reconciling what we are with what we can become, in forging bridges between today and tomorrow, while taking on board the technological developments that change our usages.”

“I see the designer as an interpreter, the interpreter of a material, of a manufacturing process, of a use, which they bring together in a coherent whole.”



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1. *Abri*, 2021. Mountain shelter. Ongoing study for an installation in Le Queyras regional nature park. Photo credits: Guillaume Bloget
2. *Thé et Café*, 2020. Teapot and coffee pot. Enamelled porcelain dyed in the mass, 9 × 9 × 27 cm (each one), Project carried out as part of the "Workspace at CERCCO" residency at the Experimentation and Research Centre for Contemporary Ceramics at HEAD (Geneva University of Art and Design) between September 2020 and January 2021, Photo credits: Baptiste Coulon
3. *Fica*, 2015. Stool, Painted foam, 45 × 45 × 44 cm, Photo credits: Véronique Huyghe
4. *Ourou*, 2022. Shelves, Cherrywood, 241 × 34 × 287 cm, Project carried out with craftsman Antoine Rivière and Association Rhizome (Ouroux-en-Morvan) during a residency in June 2022, Photo credits: Guillaume Bloget
5. *Craft*, 2020. Pot, Enamelled porcelain dyed in the mass, 20 × 20 × 28 cm, Project carried out "Workspace at CERCCO" residency at the Experimentation and Research Centre for Contemporary Ceramics at HEAD (Geneva University of Art and Design) between September 2020 and January 2021, Photo credits: Baptiste Coulon

About the Verrerie de Saint-Just



Founded in 1826, this glassworks took a turn that marked an important shift in 1865 when its new owner, Mathias

André Pelletier, a great colourist descended from a family of glassmakers, decided to stop making bottles and specialise in hand-blown coloured glass instead. In the 19th century the Verrerie de Saint-Just would become the benchmark for the creation and restoration of stained glass for cathedrals and châteaux all over Europe. It also exported part of its production to other continents. In 1921, the companies joined forces with the Saint-Gobain group and increased its production capacity, whilst preserving its unique glass-blowing know-how.

The Verrerie de Saint-Just has worked with the greatest master glassmakers and artists who have produced stained glass works, such as Marc Chagall, Gottfried Honegger, Fernand Léger, Henri Matisse, Joan Miró, etc. Renowned contemporary architects and designers, such as Philippe Starck or Peter Marino, have also used its coloured glass in their creations, an excellent example being the Baccarat showroom in Paris.

The Verrerie de Saint-Just, the art of hand-blowing coloured glass

As part of their participation in the Présent >> Futur cycle, each designer is invited by the Cité du design to embark on an encounter with a firm in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region with a specific industrial know-how. Over a period of three to six months, they collaborate on a joint *in situ* experimentation. This creative adventure has given rise to some highly original projects, the results of which are unveiled in the exhibition and discussed in the accompanying book. The second guest designer, Guillaume Bloget thus embarked upon a dialogue with the Verrerie de Saint-Just, situated close to Saint-Étienne. Fascinated as much by the amazing ballet constituted by the glassblowers engaged in their work as by the rich palette of colours produced, Guillaume Bloget focused his work on several different avenues that highlight the subtle and sensitive plays on transparency: an object-painting, "Tavaillon" a work made up of tiles of glass forming a trellis, among other things. The works he proposes are based on the overlaying or assembly of layers of glass, creating interplays between the colours of what is an exceptional material.



“The first time I visited the Verrerie de Saint-Just, I noticed the depth of the colours in the sheets stacked in the storage racks. Depending on the angle from which you look at them, nuances appear. From a reflection shot through with bright bursts of colour, you find yourself looking at a deep black. A coloured, shimmering mirror effect.

Guillaume Bloget at the Verrerie de Saint-Just glassworks © Cité du design

The Présent >> Futur cycle media partners



PRESS CONTACT:

Nathalie Colonge
Communication and press relations officer
presse@citedudesign.com
+33 (0)7 64 06 70 93

Présent >> Futur : a panorama of a new generation of designers

Initiated by the Cité du design in 2023 in Saint-Étienne, Présent >> Futur is a cycle of monographic exhibitions illustrating the plurality of expressions of contemporary French and European design. To keep track of these exhibitions, but also to prolong the pleasure of discovery, a collection of books explores a selection of projects for each guest designer. It also tells the story of a creative adventure that brings together design and industrial knowhows, i.e. the assets of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes territory.

From September 2024 to January 2025

Exhibition by the duo dach&zephyr formed in 2016 by two graduates of the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs de Paris, Florian Dach and Dimitri Zephyr. They are working with craftspeople, factories and industrial manufacturers on creating a collection of objects celebrating a culturally diverse art of living.

From February to June 2025

Exhibition by David Dubois, independent designer, visual artist and scenographer. After graduating from the ENSCI-Les Ateliers in 2003, he collaborated with the Bless collective, then Martin Szekely, and he now develops objects or additions to objects that often fill gaps no-one has thought to fill before.

About Galerie A1043, patron

Founded in Paris in 2016 by artist Didier Jean Anicet Courbot and landscaper Stéphanie Courbot, Galerie A1043 focuses on monographic and thematic projects and commissions work from contemporary designers. It places great emphasis on the quality of the design and production of the objects without taking account of the period, instead opting to select objects with conceptual and/or sculptural qualities. Galerie A1043 is patron of the Présent >> Futur cycle (exhibitions Laureline Galliot, *vrai ou FAUVE* and Guillaume Bloget, *Être là*)-