

Laikingland presents “With Movement” at Ventura Lambrate 2012

Laikingland is a creative label whose fundamental theme is movement. Each year, kinetic objects are developed collaboratively with invited artists and designers. The exhibition “With Movement” acknowledges both the objects and the collaborative process developed with each artist and designer.

New objects developed with Maarten Baas, Joost van Bleiswijk & Kiki van Eijk, Tord Boontje and Martin Smith will be presented.

‘Just About Now’ by Maarten Baas with Laikingland

“I’ve always have an interest in ways to indicate time. In spite of the fact that time is very abstract and very relative, in the western world it’s normal to indicate time very precisely. Apart from things like train schedules or the duration of sporting games, the exact time is often irrelevant. A coffee break, a meditation, a nap, a business meeting, they could take a few minutes longer or shorter than an exact amount of time. This is why I wanted to create a timer that bangs a gong, more or less after the amount of time you indicated.

“There are several objects that illustrate time in a more poetic way, like Mieke Meijers ‘Relativity’ Time pieces or my own ‘Real Time’ series, but a timer hasn’t yet been made that is adjustable and gives a sound after a while. That’s why we developed ‘Just About Now’”

Maarten Baas.

‘Light a moment’ by Joost van Bleiswijk & Kiki van Eijk with Laikingland

“‘Light a moment’, is an exclusive candle lantern. A collaboration between Joost van Bleiswijk & Kiki van Eijk where their two creative worlds are captured into one poetic kinetic object for Laikingland.

A soft and romantic ceramic form full of the characteristics of textiles holds a traditional church candle. This candle is reflected a 1000 times through fragmented mirrors built in a constructivist shape.

The protective shell opens its doors with a sophisticated and elegant movement allowing you to appreciate the time and process of lighting the candle for a special moment.”

Kiki van Eijk & Joost van Bleiswijk

'Cacophany Bell' by Tord Boontje with Laikingland

"Through the gap in the shutters, I can see him coming up the path, he is past the gate already. Quick, can I hide? Why, would I? Should I not be glad that he is coming? What if..."

Too late, I can see his hand reaching out for the buzzer, I know I have only a few seconds left.

The finger presses the button, the wireless connection is made, I look up at the ceiling.

The hammer on wheels is released, with hesitation it starts to move along the fine metal wire track. It picks up speed and rushes down the first steep slope of the track, it crashes into a steel watering can, BANG. Without slowing down the hammer keeps moving towards a glass bottle, the sound of impact is a glassy PING. Onwards through the steep corners towards the dried leaves, the doll, the tin can, CRUSH THUMP TING and finally heading towards the bell, where it ends with a loud CLANG.

Although, it does not quite end there The weight of the hammer now tips the balance of the precariously hung track and the whole thing starts to tilt over. Slowly the hammer on wheels starts to move again, exploring new forces of gravity. Giving in to a new sliding motion as the track changes shape again and the hammer reaches it's starting point again where it comes to rest.

The noise, the cacophony is still echoing through the house, while I wait for him to press the buzzer again."

Tord Boontje,

'Bird Bellow Whistle' by Martin Smith with Laikingland

"I am interested in producing mechanical bird sounds and seeing the cause and effect through a mechanism. For me the making is very important and I wanted to craft every part of the machine, to understand how the bellows are constructed and operate and to get the bird whistle just right.

The concept came for the notion of waking up to birdsong and I wanted a piece that could be set, as with an alarm clock, and would allow you start the day gently."

Martin Smith

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Each 'Bird Bellow Whistle' will be unique and have it's own idiosyncrasies.

Address :

Ventura Lambrate, Via Venture 2a, Milano

General Opening Times :

Tuesday 17th April 2012 - Sunday 22nd April 2012
10.00 - 20.00

Opening Evening :

Wednesday 18th April 2012
20.00 - 22.00

For press requests please contact press@laikingland.co.uk or telephone +44 (0)113 815 2007

About Laikingland:

Laikingland is a creative label, based in both the UK and The Netherlands, who design and manufacture beautifully crafted kinetic objects that engage, and evoke a sense of play and nostalgia.

The company was founded in 2008 and is built upon a life long friendship between artist, Martin Smith and engineer, Nick Regan. Since it's inception Laikingland has specialised in producing highly crafted limited editions, working closely with invited artists and designers to realise their kinetic ideas.

Alongside the products developed and manufactured by Laikingland, projects to create one-off, special edition and exclusive kinetic objects, spaces and commissions are also undertaken.

All our work is produced in small batches or limited editions and is hand assembled in the North of England by our team of highly skilled craftsmen, artisans and jewellers.

About Laikingland's co-founders:

Martin Smith is the Art Director of Laikingland. He lives and works in West Yorkshire, UK. He has 17 years experience as a practicing Artist, with work ranging from small kinetic devices to large-scale gallery commissions and architectural interventions.

In his role as Art Director, Martin has overall responsibility for the design selection process, he curates the product range and collaborates at the concept stage with each artist and designer. Through his vast experience of surprising yet elegant mechanisms,

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he influences both the movement of the kinetic objects and the direction of the Laikingland brand.

Nick Regan is the Engineering Director of Laikingland. He was born and raised in West Yorkshire, UK, but now lives and works in Utrecht, the Netherlands. He has 16 years product development and engineering management experience in the global automotive industry. He has worked with many of the world's leading automotive companies in the UK, Europe, USA and Asia.

For more details: <http://www.laikingland.co.uk/>