

## Nilufar SQUAT Los Angeles

### Press Release

December 2019 – February 2020

830 North Highland Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90038

Following the success of its previous editions in Paris, Beirut, Milan, New York and London, Nilufar Gallery opens the doors of SQUAT Los Angeles. Housed at 830 North Highland Avenue, SQUAT Los Angeles showcases a curated presentation of modern masters and contemporary design: over a period of three months (December 2019 – February 2020), Nilufar transforms a 500 sqm industrial space into a series of tangled atmospheres combining the work by over 40 designers.

Arranged around seven unique set-ups and a central forestage, SQUAT Los Angeles includes over 150 design pieces, from historic works to a series of experimentations by leading contemporary designers and emerging talents, including a set-up entirely curated by Italian outdoor space designer Derek Castiglioni.

Among the vintage pieces on show are a pair of important ceiling lamps by Hans Agne Jakobsson, an extendible desk by Finn Juhl and a number of signature pieces by Carlo Scarpa, B.B.P.R., Ignazio Gardella, Ico Parisi and Joaquim Tenreiro. Iconic pieces by contemporary designers include the *Criss Cross* chandelier and *Wisteria* sconces by Bethan Laura Wood, two *Butterfly* coffee tables by Claude Missir, Massimiliano Locatelli's *Atollo* tables and a selection of lamps by Michael Anastassiades. Cutting-edge limited-edition pieces exclusively designed for Nilufar Gallery are showcased as well, such as Martino Gamper's *Off Cut Lino* dining table, Xavier Lust's *Source* table, Vibeke Fønnesberg Schmidt's brass and plexiglass ceiling lamp, and two unique pieces from Osanna Visconti di Modrone's *Raggi Collection*.

Mindful of Nilufar's beginnings as an antique carpet specialist, SQUAT Los Angeles features luxurious hand-knotted vintage rugs together with hand-made contemporary carpets: from an Indian *Dhurrie* carpet from the first decades of the XX Century to the uniqueness of Ettore Sottsass' *Sun Carpet*, via the stunning copper and leather, latex coated Colombian *Inga Carpet* by Hechizoo and the polychrome wool carpets born from the collaboration between Brigitte Niedermair and Martino Gamper, each piece plays a central role in both the development of the space and its surrounding set-up.

Among the contemporary works, there is also the Audrey Large's video installation, *Implicit Surfaces*, that investigates the potential of a 3d file to materialize in different formats. The 3d model, drawn by hand, can thus become a 3d printed object, a 2d render printed on paper or also a moving image displayed on a screen. The same 3d model has been used to generate an object present in the exhibition. The scale suggests an architecture in a digital landscape where surfaces and colors don't have to follow any material constraints anymore.

On the occasion of SQUAT Los Angeles, Nilufar Gallery also presents Maggie Cardelús' *The Origine du Monde NeckPieces*, a talismanic seven-piece collection celebrating the human psyche as it connects to life's beginnings. Made of leftover leather from the fashion world, each piece is characterized by hand-made, bronze elements created with lost-wax casting, bringing to light the work's very sculptural origins.

SQUAT Los Angeles is presented in collaboration with the **Italian Cultural Institute, Los Angeles**



### ATMOSPHERES

#### ATMOSPHERE 00

Bohemian atmospheres, colour variations, shapes inspired by the typical vibes of the Amalfi Coast. Derek Castiglioni's design brings to life the entrance of 830 North Highland Avenue, with an exhibition set-up ruled by glossy and chrome finishes, exotic and safari patterns, 100% recyclable materials and imaginative outdoor fabrics. A true "in-between" space, where the garden finally establishes a strong dialogue with the street front, able to softly evoke unspoken ideas, dreams and desires.

#### ATMOSPHERE 01

Appeasing an apparent oxymoron, while merging timeless furniture with kaleidoscopic vibes. The eclectic work by contemporary designer Bethan Laura Wood plays along iconic pieces by great Italian masters, including Mario Bellini's *Camaleonda* modular sofa, a pair of Gianfranco Frattini's *831* armchairs, Ignazio Gardella's *LT3* extendible floor lamp, Osvaldo Borsani's chest of drawers and Duilio Bernabé's crystal-painted shelf. An influence that ultimately finds its quintessence and appeasement in the *Caravaggio* carpet born from the collaboration between Brigitte Niedermair and Martino Gamper.

#### ATMOSPHERE 02

Signature and contemporary Italian design, amongst hand-knotted polychrome wools, sculptures made of hand-blown glass, geometric shapes and shiny surfaces. A parlour where Italian spirit and international design do not only coexist, but harmoniously blend together: on the beige carpet by Ego Vicente, Ico Parisi's iconic sofas and armchairs embrace the material quality of Massimiliano Locatelli's *Atollo* low tables. Framing the space, Michael Anastassiades' crafted lamps, Claude Missir's unique piece *Yoki 4* and Roberto Giulio Rida's *Penta* cabinet.

#### ATMOSPHERE 03

Spindly, metal arms cascading into hand-blown orbs of lights. Michael Anastassiades' *Fontana Amorosa Collection* lamps illuminate a minimalist and timeless set-up, holding seven iconic design pieces and a unique carpet made of metal threads and natural fibres. While Alvar Aalto's rare sofa meets the timeless allure of Augusto Bozzi's pair of armchairs, the contemporaneity of David/Nicolas' *Chaise Maurice* armchair and footrest characterize the space. In the background, Ignazio Gardella's bookshelf becomes the guardian of a world suspended between past and present: a universe where Claude Missir's *Butterfly* coffee tables seem to float over and melt into Jorge Lizarazo's *Inga* carpet, whereas Finn Juhl's extendible desk and B.B.P.R.'s *Neptunia* armchairs turn into the keepers of (a yet) untold story.

#### ATMOSPHERE 04

A journey between cosmopolitan decor and the rules of modern design. Martino Gamper's *House Plan* carpet draws the boundaries for a true Italian story: while Gio Ponti's rattan wood armchairs unveil the scene, eleven iconic pieces by Gabriella Crespi enlighten the space. The intimacy of a bed, surrounded by organic forms and handcrafted objects, recounts the tale of a "Milanese Original": from the *Fungo* table lamp to the *Magic Cube* coffee table and the *Five Positions* sofa, her perfect fusion of force and finesse fully materializes while magically filling the room. In the background, the extraordinary and timeless charm of Osvaldo Borsani's bookcase closes the scene.

### ATMOSPHERE 05

Lightness and solidity, color and brightness. The seven spheres, made of white blown glass, of Federico Peri's *Grid* ceiling lamp overlook a set-up characterized by contrasts and juxtapositions. While the polychrome wools of the *Otto Dix* carpet by Brigitte Niedermair and Martino Gamper defines the "acting" space, Carlo De Carli's sofa and armchairs establish a tight dialogue with Martino Gamper's *Off-Cut* low table, Xavier Lust's *Source* table and Stilnovo's floor lamp. Surrounding this sharply defined ecosystem, a pair of iconic *PL19* armchairs by Franco Albini talk to the laminated jacaranda wood of Joaquim Tenreiro's sideboard. Closing the scene, the playfulness and contemporaneity of Bethan Laura Wood's low tables and Khaled El Mays' wall systems remind the spectator that there is no future without past and presence looking at each other.

### ATMOSPHERE 06

A dining room, a ritual representing the acme of family togetherness. Massimiliano Locatelli's six *Atollo* tables, manufactured using the jewellery technique known as "cold enamel", fill up the room. Surrounding them, eight chairs made out of cast aluminum mold. The extreme clarity of the lines and forms is enhanced by the distinctive material quality of each piece, setting the mood for a very intimate, yet collective moment. To the side, the polychrome beauty of Ettore Sottsass' *Sun Carpet* goes together with a rare adjustable floor lamp by Gino Sarfatti and the delicate red fabric upholstery of Ico Parisi's pair of *865* armchairs.

### FORESTAGE ATMOSPHERE

A space unique to modernity, fundamental in the development of both industrial and domestic contemporary spaces. The corridor, here, plays a forestage role: besides accommodating Martino Gamper's *Off Cut Lino* dining table, it represents both the vanishing point of the entire set-up and the core of the path allowing visitors to discover and experience each atmosphere. A Persian hand-knotted carpet and an Indian *Dhurrie* carpet become the essential boardwalk of a true cultural journey, where visitors are accompanied by ever-changing, yet timeless, design pieces.

Marking the transition between each atmosphere, six translucent curtains, made of **Dedar's** *Zen Light*, enrich the space with a true textile scenography. The fabric's metallic and open leno knit does not only invite visitors to walk through the space, but consistently allow them to gaze into the entirety of the set-up. The fabric, characterized by a soft, full drape and natural look, features a neutral color, lending an intangible yet solid quality to the space.

Fabrics courtesy of

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### Nilufar Gallery - Profile

Discovering, Crossing, Creating. Nina Yashar believes in the value of design to tell stories.

She founded Nilufar Gallery in Milan in 1979. Originally located in via Bigli, the gallery was specialized in antique carpets, a passion Yashar inherited from her Iranian parents. The Gallery soon launched a series of pioneering shows including "La rosa nel tappeto" (The rose on the carpet) – a study of the iconography of the rose motif in rugs – while bringing both Oriental and European carpets, such as Kilim, Gabbeh and Aubusson varieties, into the Italian and international spotlight.

By the end of the Nineties, the Gallery, now located in via della Spiga, ventured into modern and contemporary furniture, showcasing the work of mid-century masters alongside unusual carpets, cutting-edge furniture and emerging designers' pieces.

In 1998, the groundbreaking exhibition, "Tappeti svedesi e mobili scandinavi" (Swedish rugs and Scandinavian furniture) presented the work of Alvar Aalto, Hans Wegner and Arne Jacobsen, while introducing for the first time the recurring juxtaposition of furniture and rugs.

In 1999, the Gallery expanded its headquarters in via della Spiga with a project led by Italian designer GianCarlo Montebello. The first decade of the new century witnessed a series of experimentations and influences, which strengthened the Gallery's reputation as a reference point for both historical and contemporary design lovers.

From the silicone carpets by Gaetano Pesce to the rediscovery of Paul Evans' work and Martino Gamper's re-appropriation of Gio Ponti's furniture for the Hotel Parco dei Principi at the 2007 Design Miami/Basel, the Gallery's work and research resulted in a series of unique and sensational exhibitions, often accompanied by monographic catalogues that have acquired, over the years, cult status amongst collectors, design enthusiasts and researchers.

In 2018, on the occasion of Milano Design Week, Nilufar Gallery launched the first episode of 'Chez Nina', after Yashar's longtime dream of opening a convivial space. Hidden on the upper floor of Nilufar Gallery, it was designed by critically acclaimed interior designer India Mahdavi.

In 2015, in a building that once housed a silverware factory, Nina Yashar opened Nilufar Depot. Located in viale Lancetti (Milan), this 1,500 square meter space, arranged over three levels with a layout inspired by the Teatro alla Scala in Milan and renovated by Italian architect Massimiliano Locatelli, seats part of Yashar's extensive design collection, in an atmosphere allowing contemporary design to find a harmonious connection with iconic pieces of historical design.

In 2018, on the occasion of the Milano Design Week, Nilufar Depot presented "Lina Bo Bardi Giancarlo Palanti Studio d'Arte Palma 1948 – 1951", a homage to the Italian-born, Brazilian designer. The exhibition, devoted to one of the most revolutionary figures of modern architecture, was the result of a long historiographic investigation by Yashar, realized with the patronage and scientific collaboration of Instituto Bardi / Casa de Vidro - San Paolo. 2019 was the year of "Far", an experimental project and a journey into the work of 10 emerging designers, curated by Studio Vedèt and set up by Space Caviar.

During the years, Nilufar Gallery has taken part in several international fairs, including Pavillon des Arts et du Design (PAD) in Paris and London, TEFAF New York, Design Miami/Basel and The Salon ART+DESIGN in New York. Furthermore, since 2012, the Gallery has launched SQUAT, an itinerant and inter-disciplinary project aimed at broadening the horizons of the typical exhibition concept, while exploring new cultural, geographical and architectural territories.