

LASVIT

LASVIT: THE STORY OF GLASSWARE

THE MOST INSPIRING COLLECTIONS ARE ENRICHED WITH NEW PIECES PREMIERING IN PARIS

Paris/Prague, January 19 - Lasvit is ready to inspire visitors of 2018 Maison et Objet in Paris with complex presentation of glassware introducing amazing pieces to be seen for the first time as well as with new pieces within the most successful lighting collections. To bring these collections alive Lasvit cooperated with well recognized designers such as Yabu Pushelberg, Kengo Kuma or Jan Plechac and Henry Wielgus and among many authors of glassware collections Maxim Velcovsky, Art Director of Lasvit, presents two brand new collections of glasses.

The visitors of the French fair will be able to admire the typical Lasvit's signature showing exceptional craftsmanship born in the region of northern Bohemia, historically recognized for its famous glassworks and the skills of local craftsmen have resonated all over the world for hundreds of years. The Czech based manufacturer of bespoke lighting installations and glass collections has based its work on the heritage of the art of hand-blown glass and shifted it into next level thanks to the cooperation with both star designers as well as young and rising talents of the design world. *"The broad presentation of artwork Lasvit is bringing to Paris this January shows our seriousness while aiming to become the most inspirational glassmaking company in the world,"* explains Aleš Stýblo, Vice-President Lasvit.

LASVIT NOVELTIES AT MAISON ET OBJET 2018

Neverending Glory "S" by Jan Plechac and Henri Wielgus



One of Lasvit's most admired lighting collections Neverending Glory has a new variety called Neverending Glory small which is exactly half size compared to the original one. The designers Jan Plecháč and Henry Wielgus sketched the shape of the chandeliers by rotating the silhouette around its own axis. In the individual silhouettes, it is possible to recognize iconic chandeliers from five of the world's most eminent concert halls and theatres; La Scala in Milan, Palais Garnier in Paris, the Metropolitan Opera in New York, the Czech Republic's Estates Theater in Prague, and indeed the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow. Thanks to the Neverending Glory collection, everyone can enjoy this piece of history in their own home. *"The idea of Neverending Glory collection came to us when we realized how many amazing old*

crystal chandeliers there are, and that it would be beautiful to bring them to a contemporary form and into modern homes," says designer Henry Wielgus.

About Jan Plecháč & Henry Wielgus

Jan Plecháč (born 1984) and Henry Wielgus (born 1982) met during their studies at AAAD (The Academy of Art, Architecture and Design in Prague) where they first collaborated. After Jan Plechac exhibited his thesis work at Salone Satellite 2011, he gained much attention from gallery owners and well-known manufacturers. In 2012 Jan Plechac and Henry Wielgus founded studio Jan Plechac & Henry Wielgus.

Yakisugi by Kengo Kuma



The *Yakisugi* glassware collection follows its older sister, the lighting collection introduced at Salone del Mobile 2017, and is inspired by the ancient Japanese technique for preserving construction timber by charring its surface. Kengo Kuma explains *“The idea behind Yakisugi collection is about questioning the materiality of glass and natural wooden texture. My intention was to plumb the depth of wooden soul, captured inside the glass.”*

Using dry wood in place of traditional pre-soaked molds, the wood is charred by molten glass. That leaves a permanent imprint of its scorched texture on the glass surface, making each piece an authentic original. This slight modification to a centuries-old technique produced a modern and minimalistic collection that combines simple geometric forms with unusual organic textures.

About Kengo Kuma

Kengo Kuma is a renowned Japanese architect and professor at the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Architecture. He established Kengo Kuma & Associates in 1990 after earning his degree at the University of Tokyo in 1979 and studying further at Columbia University as a Visiting Scholar. His architectural office completed a series of highly acclaimed and award-winning projects both in Japan and abroad.

Currently, Kengo Kuma’s projects are underway in Asia, Europe and the USA, including the new National Stadium in Japan. Renowned as a prolific writer, his widely-read books are published in English, Chinese and Korean. His collaboration with Lasvit extends a design philosophy that encompasses architecture, furniture design and now glassworks.

Otto by Yabu Pushelberg

A crystal-ware family consisting of glasses, decanters, a carafe and an ice bucket, Otto projects an easy charm, developed through the exploration of how the individual pieces relate and interact. The stemmed drinkware features solid, weighty bases, precisely etched texture and clear Czech crystal.



Simple, refined details inform an overall language that feels familiar and comfortable yet distinctive. Alternating radial and tangential cut lines provide the same strict texture on both low and high silhouettes while the proportion of cut vs. clear glass varies from piece to piece.

The design for the Otto glassware collection was approached with a sense of balance as it applies to both the rustic qualities and the precision craftsmanship of each piece. Otto exudes an elevated yet relaxed approachability within elegant, uncomplicated forms.

About Yabu Pushelberg

Founded in 1980 by George Yabu and Glenn Pushelberg, the Yabu Pushelberg design firm is now one of the most recognized design firms worldwide. The firm's multidisciplinary approach is informed by its endless curiosity and driven by thoughtful, creative and like-minded partnerships.

Recognized as design industry innovators, the firm earned countless accolades for their work and contribution to international design excellence, including appointment as Officers for the Order of Canada. With studios in Toronto and New York and current projects in sixteen countries, attention to detail and a spirit of exploration remains a hallmark of the firm. The Lasvit collection was developed following their successful collaboration on oversized diamond-like chandeliers for the Four Seasons Kuwait.

Muster Cup and Neogothic Cup by Maxim Velčovský

Allow yourself some fun and peer into a glass as it was a kaleidoscope. By replicating its optical structures, Maxim Velčovský generates in Muster Cup the effect of a transparent ornament. Each item is original and has a unique scheme, giving it a singular character of its own. During family lunches or parties will be no more bickering about who took whose drinking cup.



The Neo-Gothic Cup showcases the specific features of a historical genus of glass – the so-called Forest glass. The protrusions on its surface were added in order not to slip from greasy hands of nobles during feasts. The middle ages are not as remote from us as may at first sight seem and practical inventions of the past can be easily entangled with twenty-first century aesthetics.



About Maxim Velčovský

Maxim Velčovský completed his studies at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague. In 2002 he became co-founder of the Qubus design studio. He participated in over ninety joint exhibitions and his works are included in the collections of the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, The New Pinakothek in Munich, the Museum of Art and Design in Prague and the Design Museum in Lausanne. In 2007 he won the Czech Designer of the Year award. In 2011 Velcovsky became Art Director of Lasvit, while also heading the Ceramics and Porcelain Atelier of the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague.

NOTE TO EDITORS

About LASVIT

The brand LASVIT, founded in 2007 by Leon Jakimic, shed a new light on Bohemian glass and takes it into the next millennium. LASVIT combine the authenticity of glass with creative craftsmanship and innovative ideas. In a few short years, LASVIT have established themselves as the authority delivering bespoke lighting sculptures and art installations made from hand-blown glass. Collaborations with renowned designers and artists gave life to unique glass

collections. Nendo, Campana Brothers, Ross Lovegrove, Daniel Libeskind, Maarten Baas, Czech legends Rene Roubicek and Borek Sipek are among those who choose Lasvit to embody their unconventional artistic vision, endowing it with the precision and mastery of our glassmakers, and produce impressive creative oeuvre. This is a manifesto of LASVIT's uncompromising mission: To create breathtaking works of glass, bringing beauty, happiness, story and a little piece of Bohemia to the customers all over the world.

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