

**Press release 08 2014** - Imperfect Design launches Blue Pottery collectie by Studio Makkink & Bey at Maison & Objet. **Location: Now! Design à vivre! hall 8 – stand D72**



## **Imperfect Design launches Blue Pottery collection by Studio Makkink & Bey**

**Imperfect Design will show its newest collection at the Maison & Objet, from September 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> 2014, in Paris. Location: Now! Design à vivre! hal 8 – stand D72**

**April 2014 Imperfect Design introduced the Cheese Maker by Studio Makkink & Bey during the Milan Design Week. Following the Cheese Maker concept the new collection will be presented at the Maison & Objet in Paris. With this new Blue Pottery collection, combined with marble, wood carving and hand paintings Studio Makkink & Bey presents the diversity of the Indian craftsmanship on a remarkable way.**

The extra-ordinary collaboration between Studio Makkink & Bey, Indian craftsmen and Imperfect Design combines design, local craft and culture into a unique range of products.



The Blue Pottery products are handmade in a small family run business in Jaipur (India), where they also do the hand paintings. Blue Pottery is a kind of ceramics, made of a mixture of white glass, quartz and gum (from the gum-tree). It is glazed and low-fired. The name 'blue pottery' comes from the eye-catching blue dye used to color the pottery. The design is inspired by Indian dancers portraying several characters with their hands, all with different symbolism.

The wood carving is done very precisely by hand. The literal translation of the dancing hands into the wood results in a beautifully shaped wooden spoon, being part of the Cheese Maker. In the Blue Pottery collection a teaspoon shaped as wooden finger makes a nice combination with the cups. The marble pieces are a perfect lid on the Blue Pottery cups and bowls, but also being used as table-mat or bowl.



## The Cheese Maker by Studio Makkink & Bey

Similarities between The Netherlands and India are the basis for the concept. The designers were inspired by the long tradition in cheese making, the history in craftsmanship such as ceramics and the population density, which resulted in a tradition of stacking houses and goods in both countries.

The Cheese Maker is a stack of products, with which you can make homemade cheese. The tower consists of a juicer, a milk jug, a spoon, a colander, a pan, a cutting board, a bowl, a cheesecloth and a press. Each product is hand-made of different materials such as wood, ceramics (blue pottery), metal, copper, cotton, soapstone and marble.

Thorough research by Studio Makkink & Bey into local techniques, materials and ways of collaboration resulted in the Cheese Maker. This is a strong basis for a potential long-term collaboration with Studio Makkink & Bey, the Indian craftsmen and Imperfect Design. With the obtained knowledge new series will be designed and developed in the next years.

The first result is the Blue Pottery collection in combination with marble, wood carving and hand painting.

## Studio Makkink & Bey

Architect Rianne Makkink and Designer Jurgen Bey work in a broad field of applied art. Together with their design team, they work on projects involving public space, product design, architecture, exposition design and applied art.

It is the ambition of Studio Makkink & Bey to increase the strategic role of the designer as much as possible. To that end, the design team includes professionals from many different knowledge areas, working together with other designers, architects and experts.

[www.studiomakkinkbey.nl](http://www.studiomakkinkbey.nl)



## Saigon Lacquer collection by Arian Brekveld

**The Saigon Lacquer collection designed by Arian Brekveld in collaboration with Vietnamese craftsmen shows that connecting passionate professionals from different cultures creates new opportunities.**

To develop a collection of interior accessories together with the local craftsmen Brekveld travelled to Vietnam twice. The result of this collaboration is a perfect match between Vietnamese craftsmanship and Dutch Design. Now, 1.5 year after the first collection was launched, we continue to build a sustainable relationship with the local local craftsmen.

Following the success of the Bat Trang vases a new Bat Trang tableware collection was designed and launched earlier this year. At the Maison & Objet (September 5<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> in Paris) the Saigon Lacquer collection, extended with new products and colors, will be presented.

The designs of Brekveld are well-known for his simplicity and functionality. Working with Vietnamese craftsmen he again created a perfect balance between his qualities and the subtlety and perfection of the Vietnamese craftsmanship.

The result is a beautiful color range in simple designs, which shows the local lacquer techniques in the best possible way.

The lacquer work consists of several layers of wood, after which 16 layers of lacquer were applied in the traditional fashion, resulting in beautifully finished products without visible seams. The quality of the finishing, combined with the shapes, has resulted in unique products that could not have been realized using different production processes. The collection consists of bowls, serving trays, low tables and candleholders, combined with a ceramic dish.



## Imperfect Design

**Imperfect Design makes handcrafted lifestyle products. These products are designed by Dutch designers in collaboration with local craftsmen and craftswomen in developing countries and emerging markets. The combination of handcrafted products and leading Dutch design makes each item unique.**

In 2011 Niels van Eijk & Miriam van der Lubbe were the first to travel for Imperfect Design. They developed a collection of recycled glass, textile and ceramics with craftsmen in Guatemala. In 2012 Arian Brekveld went to Vietnam, where he designed a collection ceramics, textiles and lacquer work. In 2013 and 2014 Studio Makkink & Bey collaborated with craftsmen in India. The result of this collaboration will be presented step by step during the next few years.

## HR images

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