

R20th C gallery and futureflair present:



Dinner + conversation, Thursday, November 3, 2011
The Power of the Hand in Design, honoring Hugo França

Guest biographies

Craig Bassam and Scott Fellows, architects/furniture designers

<http://www.bassamfellows.com/>

BassamFellows is a company dedicated to returning true craftsmanship and beauty to contemporary living. Craig Bassam, an Australian architect and furniture designer and Scott Fellows, a creative director with experience in brand strategy, together design hand-crafted, minimal yet warm furniture and interiors, reminiscent of timeless high modernism. Their iconic Tractor Stool, carved from solid wood, harmoniously marries ergonomics and nature.

Dror Benshetrit, industrial designer

<http://www.studiodror.com/html/>

Dror Benshetrit leads an interdisciplinary practice specializing in innovative product design, architecture projects, interior design and art direction, with a research focus on materials, technology and geometry. An Eindhoven Academy's alumnus, his work explores the nature of movement, space and forms as seen in his latest endeavor, Quadror, a multi-scale, weight-bearing truss structure demonstrating the transformative power of design.

Rama Chorpash, industrial designer

http://designdirectory.com/firm/main?firm_id=41134

Rama Chorpash focuses on designing products that explore social use and innovation. As Director of Product Design at Parsons the New School for Design this discourse extends to confront ostensibly contradictory issues such as manufacturing and sustainability, materialism and equity, consumerism and need, as well as globalism and localism.

Mirko Ilic, graphic artist, illustrator, art director

<http://www.mirkoilic.com/>

Bosnian Mirko Ilic started his career in Europe as an illustrator and art-director for posters, record covers, and comics. To this day he continues to illustrate for titles such as *Time Magazine* and the *New York Times* OpEd pages, where he worked as art director in the early 90s. He founded Mirko Ilic Corp., a graphic design, 3-D computer graphics, and motion picture title studio. His work has been featured in over 200 books and 500 magazines, and he has co-authored a number of seminal graphics and visual culture books.

Charles McKinney, principal urban designer, the City of NYC Parks Dept.

<http://www.ifud.org/institute-news/charles-mckinney-takes-on-new-role-at-nyc-parks-dept/>

As the *Principal Urban Designer for Parks*, McKinney is leading the preparation of Master plans for flagship parks and new acquisitions. Under his leadership, the Department is exploring responses to 21st C. design imperatives, the use of social media, web based communication, and GIS, as well as the role of planning in creating community. As former *Chief of Design* at Parks, he provided design direction for landscape and architecture

R20th C gallery and futureflair present:

projects throughout New York City. The award-winning *Design Manual for 21st Century Parks* was prepared under his direction in collaboration with the Design Trust for Public Space.

Gaetano Pesce, architect and designer

www.gaetanopesce.com/

Since the early sixties, Gaetano Pesce's oeuvre has been synonymous with groundbreaking innovations and radical thinking, with a world-renown portfolio spanning buildings, furniture, lighting, urban studies, museum installations and theater/performance – always seeking to provoke, inspire, awaken and celebrate color, new materials, political dimensions, the “poorly made,” the feminine, the humane and all our senses, while opposing repetition, nostalgia and abstraction. Pesce's long advocacy of advanced materials yield continual innovations in form and production, from the iconic “Up” series (1969), to the “Nobody's Perfect” furniture line incorporating his concept of “diversified series.”

Ali Tayar/Parallel Design, architect

<http://alitayar.com/>

A principal of Parallel design, Turkish-born Tayar studied architecture at the University of Stuttgart and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Tayar's work ranges from objects and furniture (Ellen's brackets) to commercial interiors (PoP Burger and Pizza Bar in NYC, the Omnia Hotel in Zermatt) and international architectural projects, always with a focus on structural behavior and methods of mass production.

Mary Van de Wiel, brand strategist

<http://www.zingyourbrand.com/>

Mary van de Wiel [aka: Van] is founder of Zing Your Brand & Co., a NYC-based laboratory & workspace for *serious play*. Dubbed Brand Anthropologist, she's best known for helping corporate clients and entrepreneurs coax out the emotional power in their brands. As writer, producer and radio host, Van brings her fiercely individualistic perspective to NY Brand Lab Radio as well as her off-air training & networking portals, The NY Brand Lab workshops and the Brand Reinvention Summit.

Susan Yelavich, design critic, professor

<http://www.newschool.edu/parsons/faculty.aspx?id=48729>

Susan Yelavich is an Assistant Professor at Parsons The New School for Design, and an independent curator and writer. Her books include: *Contemporary World Interiors*, *Design for Life*, and *The Edge of the Millennium*. Yelavich is a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome.

Laetitia Wolff, co-founder of The Interdisciplinarians Dinner Conversation Series

www.futureflair.com, www.designyc.org

A design editor, curator and cultural engineer, Laetitia Wolff has recently joined designyc as their first executive director. She is the founder of futureflair, a creative conduit through which she produced innovative, content-rich programming, including her latest project, ExpoTENTIAL. The author of *Massin* she is the former editor of *Graphis* and *Surface* magazines and a regular contributor to *Etapes* magazine.

R20th C gallery and futureflair present:

R20thC founders, Zesty Meyers and Evan Snyderman: www.r20thcentury.com

Zesty Meyers formed the radical installation and performance art group the B Team, which later included R designer Jeff Zimmerman and R co-founder Evan Snyderman. When he moved to New York in 1995, Meyers expanded the B Team into one of the first non-profit arts organizations comprised of visual artists using installation and performance with molten glass as their primary medium. Meyers is currently working on a major publication about Brazilian mid-century masters.

Evan Snyderman received his BFA in glass from Rochester Institute of Technology in 1992, and his MFA in glass from Tyler School of Art in 1994. In 1995, Snyderman accepted a teaching position at the Urban Glass facility in Brooklyn, New York and that year, joined the performance group, the B Team. In 1997, Snyderman founded the gallery R 20th Century with fellow B team member Zesty Meyers. Snyderman recently co-curated *Greta Magnusson Grossman: A Car and Some Shorts*, which opened at the Arkitekturmuseet in Stockholm last February. He is currently working on a major publication on Wendell Castle, as well as a documentary film on the history of design in Southern California.

Representing R20thC: Frances Perkins and Jill McKenna

Film Crew

Craig Lowy is an award-winning motion graphics designer, animation and graphic design professor, plus a film and theater director. Sometimes elegant, often humorous, his titles and animations have appeared on many TV stations and independent films. He is currently finishing "The Human Fountain," a documentary he directed about the choreographer Elizabeth Streb.

Adam Banicki is a talented cinematographer who has worked with Katalyst Films, Entertainment Tonight, and The Cleveland Show, all in Los Angeles. He is currently an MFA student at the Social Documentary Film program at the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

Special thanks to SVA Social Documentary Film MFA