

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MASA

Recover/Uncover

February 6 - April 8, 2020

Manuel Gómez Pedraza 72, San Miguel Chapultepec I Secc, Miguel Hidalgo, 11850 Ciudad de México, CDMX, Mexico (Entrance on Gobernador Tiburcio Montiel 5)

additive/reductive

function/decoration

male/female

reveal/conceal

infinite/finite

revisited/forgotten

void/solid

energy/mass

external/internal

astronomy/archeology

MEXICO CITY, Mexico — MASA is delighted to present Recover/Uncover, an exhibition examining the convention of taxonomy as an organizational exercise that reveals its own ambiguities. With newly commissioned, unique and limited-edition pieces by designers and artists whose inquiries defy strict categorization, MASA celebrates contradiction as a reflection of the ongoing process of becoming and self-definition — presenting objects as tools for living, contemplation and, most of all, reconciliation.

Recover/Uncover features several works whose use is both fulfilled and undermined by deliberate design. Vases from Mexico-born and Los Angeles-based artist Milena Muzquiz overflow their purpose with multitudinous, accumulative surfaces. A screen by the Mexico City-based design collective VIDIVIXI divides the room while expanding it — opening up the visual field with a highly polished chrome surface. An artwork by Mexican artist Tania Pérez Córdova hints at function as less an inherent quality than as a relationship between things, in this case a bent piece of window glass holding a small pool of cleaner. And exemplary furniture by New York-based designer Misha Kahn include a woven chandelier of fibers and recovered detritus, an unraveling texture that coalesces into undulating form.

Other works in the exhibition consider the relationship of tension to mass. A new rubber light by Brian Thoreen continues the Mexico City-based designer's exploration of precariousness and balance, while ribbons of metal sheeting appear at once ethereal and exaggerated in lighting from Mexican designer Héctor Esrawe. Thoreen and Esrawe present an infinitude of variations within set geometric parameters; so too do plinths from Savvy Studio and Umberto Bellardi Ricci, and a shelving unit from architecture and design collective Tezontle reference how function can contain its own multitudes. In modularity, objects are both defined and yet become almost formless — endlessly expandable — a set of individual elements responding to space and requirement.

Absence, both implied and physical, is given varied presence in several works. In a room-spanning installation, Mexico City-based artist Perla Krauze uncovers discarded material to create a new arrangements, including such castoff elements as incised cutting mats from stone yards and cracks cast from sidewalk upheaval. Similarly, a woven horsehair-topped bench by London-based designer Hollie Bowden and a carved stone seating arrangement by Mexico City-based sculptor Adeline de Monseignat use central voids to emphasize an overall sense of solidity, while new works made in Mexico by Tbilisi, Georgia-based studio Rooms evoke ancient ruins in a contemporary design vernacular.

Within a set of binaries, MASA is the /. The pieces in Recover/Uncover exist along a spectrum of indeterminates rather than at a stasis, defying strict archetypes in favor of an ongoing exploration of purpose and expression.

— Su Wu

Curated with Su Wu

All images Genevieve Lutkin

Works by Misha Kahn are courtesy of Fridman Benda

With works by:

Atelier Van Lieshout
Hollie Bowden
Jose Dávila
Pablo Dávila
Héctor Esrawe
EWE
Mario García Torres
Misha Kahn
Perla Krauze
LANZA Atelier
Adeline de Monseignat
Milena Muzquiz
Tania Pérez Córdova
Jerónimo Reyes-Retana
Gabriel Rico
Rooms
Savvy Studio and Umberto Bellardi Ricci
Joe Sweeney
Tezontle
Brian Thoreen
VIDIVIXI
VISSIO

ABOUT MASA

MASA is a nomadic gallery, blurring the line between art and design. To show, to curate, to write, to build, to question, to provoke, to educate, to learn: these are the desires.

With digital, physical, and conceptual presence, MASA challenges convention and presents ideas on a global stage. With an effort to open up conversation and dialogue around material culture. MASA curates exhibitions offering work with integrity, direction and value.

MASA was founded in Mexico City by a curator and creative director Age Salajõe, designers Héctor Esrawe and Brian Thoreen, Cristobal Riestra of the contemporary art gallery Galería OMR, along with collectors Roberto Diaz Sesma, Isaac Bissu, and Constanza Garza.

Their background in art, design and architecture are reflected in MASA's presentation of design at its boundaries.