Artists statement for Two & One White Cubes, and Terra Rings.

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These works attempt to uncover the extended relations of materials. It is a polemic against the hylomorphic style of design and production that conceptually separates form and material (a style that draws the eye towards surfaces, hiding the interrelated, complex, and often polluting, burdensome materialities of real world production).

This is not just a story of ecological effect, but ecological origin: so much of our material resources come from animal and plant based sources. Concrete comes from limestone that comes from the crushed bodies of sea animals, sedimented into rock over millions of years. Spray paints and plastics derive from petrochemicals, extracted from petroleum that is refined from crude oil, made from millions of years of dinosaur bones, ancient planktons and plants, compressed underground. What we consider the common and artificial materials of the built environment, truly originate in the life and death of animals.

Two & One White Cubes

Materialities of production should not be limited to superficialities. Though designers try, directing attention to surfaces, glossy and smooth, comfortably simple and sensibly restrained.

Instead, we propose our task is to sensitise the ecology of extended material relations and bring its chaotic qualities into perception through form.

Terra Rings

Processed materials should not be divorced from vibrant origins.

The series of rings create sensory links between the raw forms of materials and their manufactured products. The latter are ready in the form of refined metals, paints, resins, concrete and dyes typical to our practice. Obtaining and using their precursors – ores, rocky minerals, and fossil fuels of various types, all of which have plant and animal origins – requires a little more effort. We take advantage of small scientific samples, shipped to us from around the world, thanks to fossil fuels.
Materials

Two & One White Cubes:

Tasmanian oak\(^1\), MDF\(^2\), polyurethane spray foam & paint\(^3\), concrete\(^4\), other paints\(^5\), silver leaf, shellac\(^6\) and PVA glue\(^12\)

Terra Rings:

1. Concrete\(^4\), epoxy resin\(^7\), brass\(^8\), paint\(^5\), neodymium magnets\(^9\)
2. Concrete\(^4\), iron oxide, epoxy resin\(^7\), brass\(^8\), paint\(^5\), neodymium magnets\(^9\)
3. Concrete\(^4\), iron oxide, epoxy resin\(^7\), sterling silver\(^10\), neodymium magnets\(^9\)
4. Oil sandstone (unknown source)\(^11\), epoxy resin\(^7\), paint\(^5\), brass\(^8\), neodymium magnets\(^9\)
5. Epoxy resin\(^7\), polyester resin\(^13\), sterling silver\(^10\), neodymium magnets\(^9\)
6. Concrete\(^4\), marble powder\(^14\), sterling silver\(^10\), neodymium magnets\(^9\)
7. Calcite crystal cluster\(^15\) (from Bulgaria), epoxy resin\(^7\), paint\(^5\), brass\(^8\), neodymium magnets\(^9\)
8. Concrete\(^4\), epoxy resin\(^7\), paint\(^5\), brass\(^8\), neodymium magnets\(^9\)
9. Heavy crude oil\(^16\) (from Pennsylvania), borosilicate glass, epoxy resin\(^7\), sterling silver\(^10\), brass, paint\(^5\), neodymium magnets\(^9\)
10. Epoxy resin\(^7\), sterling silver\(^10\), neodymium magnets\(^9\)
11. Polyurethane, paint\(^5\), brass\(^8\), neodymium magnets\(^9\)
12. Limestone\(^15\) (from Spain), polyester resin\(^13\), epoxy resin\(^7\), steel, brass\(^8\), paint\(^5\), neodymium magnets\(^9\)
13. Optical calcite crystal\(^15\) (from Brazil), sterling silver\(^10\), epoxy resin\(^7\), neodymium magnets\(^9\)
14. Epoxy resin\(^7\), paint\(^5\), brass\(^8\), neodymium magnets\(^9\)
15. Light crude oil\(^16\) (from Ecuador), borosilicate glass\(^17\), epoxy resin\(^7\), sterling silver\(^10\), neodymium magnets\(^9\)

\(^1\) a type of wood, a composite of lignin (organic cross-linked phenolic polymer) and cellulose (organic polysaccharide compound) in a porous,
fibrous structure found in tree stems and roots

2 medium-density fibreboard (unknown wood or paper fibres in a resin binder, typically urea-formaldehyde)

3 isocyanate (treated amines extracted from ammonia and phosgene and some kind of polyol resin with dimethyl ether (dehydration of methanol) with or without a hydrocarbon propellant

4 cement, sand (various granular minerals, commonly silica and calcium carbonate) and aggregate (various rocks and minerals from an unknown source)

5 unknown petrochemical polymer colourants, plus some metals, with or without a hydrocarbon propellant.

6 the resin secreted by the female lac bug (Kerria lacca) and ethanol (either fermented sugar yeasts or an industrial petrochemical)

7 polyepoxide, a cross-linked thermosetting polymer (polymerised ethylene oxide, a silver catalysed ethylene)

8 alloy of copper and zinc, with additional unknown elements including arsenic, phosphorus, aluminium, manganese, and silicon.

9 alloy of neodymium, iron and boron

10 alloy of silver and copper, with additional trace elements that may include germanium, zinc, platinum, silicon and boron

11 petroleum and sand (various granular minerals, commonly silica and calcium carbonate)

12 polyvinyl acetate (ethylene reacted with acetic acid)

13 a synthetic thermosetting resin made from polyol, typically ethylene glycol (ethylene reacted with water), reacted with a dibasic acid (probably phthalic acid)

14 recrystallised carbonate minerals (commonly calcite or dolomite]
with other impurities (such as clays, silts, sands, iron oxides, or chert) metamorphised from millenia of geological heat, pressure and chemical reaction

15 calcium carbonate (shells, corals and the bodies of other sea animals composited into rock over half a billion years or so)

16 fossil fuel (the bodies of plants, animals and other living organisms anaerobically decomposed over millions of years underground)

17 glass made from sillica, oxidised boron, lime\textsuperscript{15} and soda ash (sodium carbonate, either mined or industrially produced via chemical reactions of materials such as sea salt, coal, brine, ammonia, limestone and other substances)

18 an alcohol with multiple hydroxyl groups (likely petrochemical origin\textsuperscript{16})

19 fractionally distilled petrochemical hydrocarbon\textsuperscript{16}

20 urea (organic compound made from synthetic ammonia and carbon dioxide) and formaldehyde (oxidised methanol [carbon monoxide and hydrogen, a petrochemical gas\textsuperscript{16}, reacted with zinc and copper catalysts)

21 a naturally occurring substance now most commonly sourced as a byproduct of coal-fired power plants\textsuperscript{16}

22 an industrial reagent made from carbon monoxide and chlorine gas

23 synthetic gas made from a hydrocarbon feedstock, either natural gas\textsuperscript{16}, coal\textsuperscript{16} or a biofuel source

24 cooked and crushed limestone\textsuperscript{15} with a pozzolanic material (probably fly ash, a coal\textsuperscript{16} fired power plant byproduct)

25 also know as 'vinegar', produced by the natural fermentation of plant products or synthesis from a petrochemical\textsuperscript{16} using a palladium catalyst

26 oxidised naphthalene, a coal tar distallate\textsuperscript{16}