

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

Guy Keulemans & Kyoko Hashimoto

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 oak¹, MDF², polyurethane spray foam & paint³, concrete⁴, other paints⁵, silver leaf, shellac⁶ and PVA glue¹²

Terra Rings:

- 1** Concrete⁴, epoxy resin⁷, brass⁸, paint⁵, neodymium magnets⁹
- 2** Concrete⁴, iron oxide, epoxy resin⁷, brass⁸, paint⁵, neodymium magnets⁹
- 3** Concrete⁴, iron oxide, epoxy resin⁷, sterling silver¹⁰, neodymium magnets⁹
- 4** Oil sandstone (unknown source)¹¹, epoxy resin⁷, paint⁵, brass⁸, neodymium magnets⁹
- 5** Epoxy resin⁷, polyester resin¹³, sterling silver¹⁰, neodymium magnets⁹
- 6** Concrete⁴, marble powder¹⁴, sterling silver¹⁰, neodymium magnets⁹
- 7** Calcite crystal cluster¹⁵ (from Bulgaria), epoxy resin⁷, paint⁵, brass⁸, neodymium magnets⁹
- 8** Concrete⁴, epoxy resin⁷, paint⁵, brass⁸, neodymium magnets⁹
- 9** Heavy crude oil¹⁶ (from Pennsylvania), borosilicate glass, epoxy resin⁷, sterling silver¹⁰, brass, paint⁵, neodymium magnets⁹
- 10** Epoxy resin⁷, sterling silver¹⁰, neodymium magnets⁹
- 11** Polyurethane, paint⁵, brass⁸, neodymium magnets⁹
- 12** Limestone¹⁵ (from Spain), polyester resin¹³, epoxy resin⁷, steel, brass⁸, paint⁵, neodymium magnets⁹
- 13** Optical calcite crystal¹⁵ (from Brazil), sterling silver¹⁰, epoxy resin⁷, neodymium magnets⁹
- 14** Epoxy resin⁷, paint⁵, brass⁸, neodymium magnets⁹
- 15** Light crude oil¹⁶ (from Ecuador), borosilicate glass¹⁷, epoxy resin⁷, sterling silver¹⁰, neodymium magnets⁹

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-formaldehyde²⁰)

³ isocyanate (treated amines extracted from ammonia²¹ and phosgene²²) and some kind of polyol resin¹⁸ with dimethyl ether (dehydration of methanol²³) with or without a hydrocarbon propellant¹⁶

⁴ cement²⁴, sand (various granular minerals, commonly silica and calcium carbonate¹⁵) and aggregate (various rocks and minerals from an unknown source)

⁵ unknown petrochemical¹⁶ polymer colourants, plus some metals, with or without a hydrocarbon¹⁶ propellant.

⁶ the resin secreted by the female lac bug (*Kerria lacca*) and ethanol (either fermented sugar yeasts or an industrial petrochemical¹⁶)

⁷ polyepoxide, a cross-linked thermosetting polymer (polymerised ethylene oxide, a silver catalysed ethylene¹⁹)

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 petroleum¹⁶ and sand (various granular minerals, commonly silica and calcium carbonate¹⁵)

¹² polyvinyl acetate (ethylene¹⁹ reacted with acetic acid²⁵)

¹³ a synthetic thermosetting resin made from polyol¹⁸, typically ethylene glycol (ethylene¹⁹ reacted with water), reacted with a dibasic acid (probably phthalic acid²⁶)

¹⁴ recrystallised carbonate minerals (commonly calcite¹⁵ 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 silica, oxidised boron, lime¹⁵ 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 origin¹⁶)

¹⁹ fractionally distilled petrochemical hydrocarbon¹⁶

²⁰ urea (organic compound made from synthetic ammonia and carbon dioxide) and formaldehyde (oxidised methanol [carbon monoxide and hydrogen, a petrochemical gas¹⁶, reacted with zinc and copper catalysts)

²¹ a naturally occurring substance now most commonly sourced as a byproduct of coal-fired power plants¹⁶

²² an industrial reagent made from carbon monoxide and chlorine gas

²³ synthetic gas made from a hydrocarbon feedstock, either natural gas¹⁶, coal¹⁶ or a biofuel source

²⁴ cooked and crushed limestone¹⁵ with a pozzolanic material (probably fly ash, a coal¹⁶ fired power plant byproduct)

²⁵ also know as 'vinegar', produced by the natural fermentation of plant products or synthesis from a petrochemical¹⁶ using a palladium catalyst

²⁶ oxidised naphthalene, a coal tar distillate¹⁶