PAUSE Lausanne
ALDO BAKKER
8 February – 30 April 2017
PRESS KIT

mudac MUSÉE DE DESIGN ET D’ARTS APPLIQUÉS CONTEMPORAINS
PRESS KIT
Lausanne, December 2016

PAUSE Lausanne
ALDO BAKKER
8 February – 30 April 2017

PRESS CONFERENCE: TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY AT 10.30 am
IN THE PRESENCE OF ALDO BAKKER

MEDIA CONTACT
Isaline Vuille, public relations
+41 21 315 25 27, isaline.vuille@lausanne.ch

Thank you to confirm if you plan to attend the press conference until January 31.

HD IMAGES
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SUMMARY
Press release p. 3
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Over the last thirty years, the designer Aldo Bakker (NL, 1971) has built up a radical body of work. It is driven by painstaking and applied research into form, and is very personal and often unclassifiable in its stylistic vocabulary. He has turned his back on functionalism and post-modernism alike, and is not aligned with any other movement or trend. This will be the first time that his work is exhibited in Switzerland; it will be staged as if in a fixed landscape, with his studio involved in guaranteeing its concept and realisation. The first phase of this project was held at CID – the Centre for Innovation and Design – at Grand Hornu (Belgium) in early 2016; the Lausanne exhibition is a totally revised version adapted to the specific space of the museum.

All of Bakker’s objects seem strangely familiar at first sight; they remind us of things we have seen or used before, almost as if they are the archetypes of the material culture that surrounds us. But immediately after this initial sense of recognition the questioning starts. What force created these shapes? Could any other choice of colour have done justice to this single object? Why do some shapes suggest a functional purpose (pouring, drinking, sitting down) when the essence of the objects clearly lies beyond their practical qualities? Does it make sense to ask whether these objects should be seen as art or design?

They often seem to be inhabited by a personality, a character of their own, as if they were autonomous creatures. Often shaped by a single material (ceramics, glass, wood, copper), they sketch out friendly and organic forms, almost pictograms. To get to know them we will have to stand still. Invest time. Pause. To echo with them we will have to let go of our preconceptions and listen to the stories they tell us, search for relevant questions, and put our personal aesthetic preferences to the test.

Although Aldo Bakker has been producing a wide range of objects – one-offs and limited editions next to working for renowned companies like Karakter and Georg Jensen (DN), Puiforcat and Sèvres (FR) and Swarovski (AU) – the actual impact of his oeuvre is not related to numbers. The quality of the works he has drawn and crafted, re-drawn and re-crafted over and over again should first be understood for the way they change our perception of the ordinary. 

Aldo Bakker. Pause/Lausanne demonstrates his subtle mastery of the extra-ordinary. Not by being outrageous but through subtlety and absolute precision of execution.

Ever since the age of sixteen, when he made his first attempts at drawing, Bakker has chosen an independent position. The son of designers Gijs Bakker and Emmy Van Leersum, he has spent his life immersed in a creative world with a pioneering, even transgressive, spirit. He initially trained in a jeweller’s workshop before starting literally from scratch, teaching himself a new career. It became the trademark of his creative approach: finding out the hard way, digging deeper when the results did not match the essential form he wanted to capture. This process involves close collaborations with craftsmen (carpenters, silver smiths, urushi masters and others), who add their expertise and sensibility to Aldo Baker’s distinct creative signature.

Aldo Bakker. Pause/Lausanne not only invites the visitor to slow down and see, the exhibition also creates a unique setting for Aldo Bakker to evaluate, compare and combine objects that often took years to mature before they left the studio. No wonder that Bakker and his team grabbed the opportunity to design the choreography of the exhibition themselves, leaving not the slightest detail to chance.

Aldo Bakker. PAUSE is a production of CID (Le Grand-Hornu, Belgium).
Watering Can, 2016
© Aldo Bakker
Image © Erik & Petra Hesmerg

Pot, 2016
© Aldo Bakker
Image © Erik & Petra Hesmerg

Square Pourer, 2016
© Aldo Bakker
Image © Erik & Petra Hesmerg
Urushi Tonus, 2014
Courtesy Particles Gallery 2014
© Aldo Bakker
Image © Erik & Petra Hesmerg

Swing, 2014
Courtesy Karakter 2014
© Aldo Bakker
Image © Erik & Petra Hesmerg

AlineToB, Sèvres, 2014
© Aldo Bakker
Image © Erik & Petra Hesmerg
Soy Pourer, 2010
Courtesy Thomas Eyck 2010
© Aldo Bakker
Image © Erik & Petra Hesmerg

Pivot, 2014
Courtesy Karakter 2014
© Aldo Bakker
Image © Erik & Petra Hesmerg

Horn, 2014
Courtesy Puiforcat 2014
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**USEFUL INFORMATION**

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<tr>
<td>Press Conference</td>
<td>Tuesday February 7 at 10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opening</td>
<td>Tuesday February 7 from 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dates of the exhibition</td>
<td>February 8 – April 30, 2017</td>
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<td>Event</td>
<td>Jeudi Design</td>
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<td>Talk with Aldo Bakker and David Bielander</td>
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<td>Thursday 23 March 2017 at 6pm</td>
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<td>Guided tours</td>
<td>Sunday 5 March 2017 at 4pm</td>
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<td>Saturday 1 April 2017 at 4pm</td>
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<td>Hours</td>
<td>Tue - Sun, 11am - 6pm</td>
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<td>Open on every bank holiday, Mondays included</td>
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<td>Free admission on the first Saturday of each month</td>
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<td>Media contact</td>
<td>Isaline Vuille, public relation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+41 21 315 25 27, <a href="mailto:isaline.vuille@lausanne.ch">isaline.vuille@lausanne.ch</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td>Place de la Cathédrale 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CH-1005 Lausanne</td>
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<td></td>
<td>t +41 315 25 30</td>
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