

Designing the sacred

Versatile Studiopepe meets the exclusive collectible vision of Galerie Philia

Anna Casotti | 15 June 2022



Temenos by Studiopepe - Photo © Maison Mouton Noir

In the evocative setting of an industrial archaeology site of **over 220 sqm**, inside the **former Necchi factory at Baranzate**, **Galerie Philia** explores the sacred through the sculptural works of **Arianna Lelli Mami** and **Chiara Di Pinto**. Also known as **Studiopepe**



Temenos by Studiopepe - Photo © Maison Mouton Noir

For **Milano Design Week**, the impressive *mise en scène* evocatively titled **Temenos** – in Greek, a sacred place pertaining to a sanctuary and its enclosure – was an immersive experience based on the circular shapes of Stonehenge and the dome of the Pantheon.



Arianna Lelli Mami & Chiara Di Pinto – Photo © Studiopepe

“Co-curated with **Galerie Philia**, the installation was conceived to narrate the notion of the sacred in all its anthropological and historical complexity, in our works and in the symbols assigned to objects and furnishings across history,” Arianna Lelli Mami and Chiara Di Pinto, founders of the creative studio, explain.



Temenos by Studiopepe – Photo © Maison Mouton Noir

A cylindrical structure placed at the center of the space interpreted the form of a temple and revealed the eclectic pieces by Studioepepe, with their non-conformist design approach and painstaking research on formal archetypes. “*Temenos* – says **Ygaël Attali**, co-founder of Galerie Philia – represents the start of our collaboration with Studioepepe. Their organic-sculptural design, entirely made by hand, brings out the beauty of imperfection in a complete work. Studioepepe has produced a powerful set of pieces that stand out for their thematic and aesthetic consistency.”



Temenos by Studioepepe – Photo © Maison Mouton Noir

Works that also reference the “mentors” of the artistic duo, including Constantin Brancusi, Isamu Noguchi, Le Corbusier. The result is a limited-edition collection exclusively created for Galerie Philia: monolithic seats, a console, a lamp and a mirror, featuring a complete re-reading of their functions, eliminated or transformed in the symbolism attributed by man.



Temenos by Studioepepe – Photo © Maison Mouton Noir

Each work is named with the nine archetypal entities of Egyptian cosmology, the essential principles of the creation of the universe: the **Tefnut** table assembled with slabs of brown onyx; the **Temu** lamp immersed in its organic form; **Geb** and **Nut**, a series of thrones with daring geometry in burnt wood; **Isi**, a modernist concrete seat inspired by the famous Palace of Assembly of Chandigarh by Le Corbusier.



Nut by Studioepe – Photo © Flavio Pescatori



Isi by Studioepe – Photo © Flavio Pescatori

“In our travels, we like to visit ethnographic and anthropological museums, such as the Museo Preistorico Etnografico Luigi Pigorini of Rome with its collection of traditional art and materials, documenting the cultures of all continents,” they say at Studioepe. “Elements that besides having an artistic and religious character, bear witness to various aspects of material culture of non-European populations, from which we have taken inspiration for our collection.”