

The Evolution Theory of Taiwanese Craftsmanship

Exploring the Taste of the Forest at Maison et Objet 2022

There's no better way to have "a taste of Taiwan" than through the perfect combination of Taiwanese creativity, Taiwanese craftsmanship, and local Taiwanese timber. The Taste of the Forest Exhibition at Maison et Objet 2022 is going to showcase the diverse and unrestrained contemporary craftsmanship of Taiwan through a variety of Taiwanese bamboo and wood craft works. The exhibition further aims to work as a possible solution to the decline of domestically produced materials and craftsmanship in the face of globalization.

Reexplore Local Materials to Make a Restart of Taiwanese Craftsmanship

National Taiwan Craft Research and Development Institute (NTCRI) has been dedicated to promoting many visionary exchange and experimental projects in recent years. It not only catches up on the global trend of interdisciplinary, mashup, and sustainable design, but also introduces a collaborative network between craft, art, design, and technology to lead another evolution of craftsmanship in Taiwan. Working with several wood craft creators who took part in the MAISON & OBJET AND MORE (MOM) online exhibition 2021, the Taste of the Forest Exhibition at Maison et Objet 2022 features the reproduction of their works using Taiwanese bamboo and timber. The new versions of the works propose a "micro mass production" solution that strikes a balance between the "uniqueness of crafts" and the "standardization of mass production."

Craft Works with a True Taste of Taiwanese Flavor

The eleven exhibits consist of seven featured works made using Taiwanese timber and bamboo, two Taiwanese fiber works made collaboratively by Taiwanese and French craft creators, and two ceramic digital craft works. As a collaboration between Taiwan and France, it is of great significance for the fiber works to return to Paris and get exhibited, while the ceramic digital craft works are perfect examples of Taiwan's vibrant energy and diverse looks.

The featured works include four reproduction works of MOM exhibits using Taiwanese timber. Originally made with ash and walnut wood, the rattan-faced wooden bench TYLC designed by Yang Tzu Hsien is reproduced with beadtrees and mahogany wood and can be used both as a bench as well as a porch screen. Cherish Memories, where the creator Lin Jing Teng materializes the image of weaving, is also reproduced with Taiwanese beadtrees and mahogany to replace the original material belian wood. Designer Hsu Chan Wei uses cedar to replace white oak to present a new face to his work Gray, a multifunctional bench incorporated with the idea of greening. Tea Tray by Hong Yong Siang is created by imbedding a red brass window frame into a piece of Taiwan fir wood recycled from an old door, bringing waste to life in the form of teawares.

There are three exhibits made with Taiwanese bamboo and timber making their first appearance at Maison et Objet. Made with dark colored Taiwan acacia and light-colored beadtrees, Booboo Chair by Chang Cheng Kai is a childlike rail chair fabricated using the

technique of wood bending. Creator Sunny Chung has two exhibits on display—Virtuality and Reality is a desktop cabinet made with cedar and *Taiwania cryptomerioides* with wooden lace art illustrating patterns of local plants in Taiwan; as a collaboration with General Veneer Laminated. Corp., Harmony Marquetry Waldeco is a set of dynamic and harmonious geometric paintings made with Taiwan acacia and *Taiwania cryptomeria*, which are totally different in the colors and grains, through a veneer inlay technique called “Marquetry.”

Crossover Works Break through the Barriers of Borders and Generations

Light House Floor Lamp and HUBLOT are clever works made collaboratively by Taiwanese craft creators and the students from École Boulle, France in 2019. Fabricated with the fiber of paper mulberry and penang, the traditional yet modern lamp and screen blow people’s minds with their mild textures and rich narratives. Impact, solely designed by ceramic artist Chen Chiung Ju, and Sake Bottles, made by Chen Chiung Ju and digital maker Li Jian You, are mindblowing works made by cutting-edge technologies such as parametric design and 3D printing to achieve the shapes, change of textures, and mosaic design that could not have been done by traditional ceramic techniques.

From the fiber of timber and bamboo, teawares, lamps, to furniture, the masterpieces made with local Taiwanese materials are ready to deliver a fresh and friendly scent of Taiwan to Maison et Objet 2022. It’s definitely worth a visit!

Taste of the Forest Exhibition

- location: Maison et Objet , paris, hall 7, a41
- organization: NTCRI
- dates: 24-28 march, 2022

Taste of the Forest Digital Fair (MOM)

<https://mom.maison-objet.com/en/brand/13914/neo-taiwanese-craftsmanship>