

# The Biennale for Crafts & Design 2017

– tactile qualities, conceptual provocations and outstanding craftsmanship

*A total of 27 projects have been selected among the 146 applicants for this year's Biennale exhibition, which is on show from 5 through 27 May at the Copenhagen art gallery 'Museumsbygningen'. In putting together the exhibition, the jury relied on this year's Biennale theme 'Liquid Life' as the unifying concept in a multifaceted and nuanced story about contemporary craft and design.*

The opening day of the Biennale, 4 May 2017, is a day of celebration for the professional craft makers and designers, with the awarding of the Biennale Prize as an important highlight. The award comes with a prize sum of DKK 100,000 donated by the private foundation Grosserer L. F. Foghts Fond.

## **What is the Biennale?**

The Biennale is an exhibition, a competition and a communication platform for professional craft makers and designers in Denmark, showcasing both new and established talents. Every two years, everyone in the professional field is invited to apply to be considered for the exhibition. The exhibition is put together by a Nordic jury appointed by the Danish Crafts & Design Association. This year's jury comprises Christian Holmsted Olesen, head of exhibitions and collections at Designmuseum Danmark; Ann Linnemann, ceramicist and gallery owner; Benny Henningsen, artist/Bureau Detours; Agneta Linton (SE), professor and educator at Konstfack and curator at Eskilstuna Konstmuseum; Marianne Zamecznik (NO), curator, exhibition designer and artist.

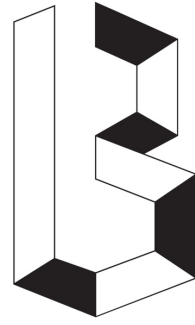
## **Theme: Liquid Life**

The purpose of the Biennale theme is to challenge the artistic and design analysis in order to promote development and growth within the field of crafts and design.

The Polish sociologist Zygmunt Bauman coined the term Liquid Modernity to describe contemporary conditions in the Western world, where speed, movement and normative states are key characteristics. The theme of the Biennale reflects a humanistic approach to contemporary challenges, and the resulting exhibition covers a diverse range, from artistic and material studies to political statements about current issues.

## **Art, techniques and materials**

Nordic crafts in particular have broken free from being exclusively use-oriented to embracing an artistic and materials-driven dimension. The Biennale is very much a scene for projects that move freely between the categories of art, design, architecture and crafts, defying narrow categorization.



#### Example no. 1: Birgitte Christens, Liggende Kvinde

Ceramicist Birgitte Christens represents a generation of craft makers who engage in the artistic project based on a sublime grasp of materials. Her *Liggende Kvinde* depicts an inner stagnation in the face of an outside world that appears overwhelming and complex. A single piece of stoneware with a glossy white tin glaze shapes into a life-like representation of the female body based on a plaster cast of Birgitte Christens's own body. She created the piece during an artist-in-residence programme at ekwc – European Ceramic Work Centre.

#### Example no. 2: Filigree Robotics

Filigree Robotics is a collaborative piece by Flemming Tvede Hansen, Martin Tamke, Esben Clausen Nørgaard and Henrik Leander.

It represents an experimental attempt at achieving synergy between ceramics and architecture with digital technology as a shared project platform. The result is an impressively executed piece of technical poetry in porcelain involving the use of a digital tool, a five-axis robotic arm.

#### Example no. 3: Vibe Lundemark, Straw that broke the camel's back

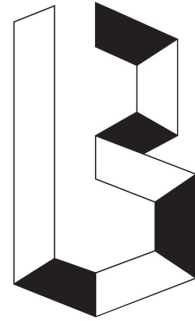
Vibe Lundemark's design project reflects a *break with commercial overproduction*. She makes a virtue of pauses, stagnation and flaws in her interpretations of classic pieces such as a jacket, shirt and dress. These pieces are imbued with greater aesthetic value through textile processing and a high degree of detailing, which increases the time required to decode them. In this piece, the sensuous qualities of the design craft play a crucial role, reflecting a desire to reduce the pace. The materials are silk/cotton with digital prints and mixed-media embroidery.

### **Guided tours and artist talks in the Biennale exhibition**

Art associations and other interested groups are offered guided tours of the Biennale exhibition by selected professionals. To book a tour, please contact the secretariat of the Danish Crafts & Design Association. There will also be a programme of artist talks that are open to the public.

### **Crafts and design festival 4 May–4 June**

From Kolding to Copenhagen, this spring will see a range of craft and design events: exhibitions, pop-up events, workshops, open studios and a large number of talks and presentations. Most are aimed at professionals and audiences with a special interest in crafts and design. The month-long festival, which reflects the desire of Danish makers and designers to join forces in presenting the field, features exhibitions, award ceremonies and show rooms. As an organizer or a professional practitioner, you can submit proposals for the programme. Please contact the secretariat of Danish Crafts & Design Association for additional information: [info@biennalen.dk](mailto:info@biennalen.dk)  
A programme will be available at [www.biennalen.dk](http://www.biennalen.dk) sometime this spring.



### **Biennale history**

The Biennale for Crafts & Design has existed since 1995 when it was launched at the initiative of Danske Kunsthåndværkere (Danish Crafts Association; now Danish Crafts & Design Association) and varying museums across Denmark. After being presented in Kolding for a number of years, the Biennale has been held in Copenhagen since 2013. The 2017 Biennale marks the 11th instalment of the event.

### **Practical information about the Biennale**

Address: Museumsbygningen, 18 Kastelsvej, 2100 Copenhagen Ø

Duration: 5–27 May 2017

Official opening and award ceremony: 4 May at 19:00

[www.biennalen.dk](http://www.biennalen.dk)

### **Contact for additional information**

[info@biennalen.dk](mailto:info@biennalen.dk)

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