

ALDO BAKKER'S objects are primitive. Like a quattrocento Venetian glass or a grain jar from the Han Dynasty dating back to the 2nd century, their timelessness ties the past to the present. In Bakker's work, form and function prevail like for his Three Pair stool that simultaneously evokes an elephant's foot and a Noguchi sculpture. Choreographed, every piece Bakker designs comes with a movement of its own: sculpted out of a single piece of solid oak, his wooden Tonus Stool seems to be equally poised for eternity and ready to 'dance, awake, unfold'. As if embarked on a spiritual journey, living around his elegant pieces brings peace of mind.

In a world dominated by the "next trend", giving time to an object and crafting it layer after layer comes as a great luxury. Like a conductor, Aldo Bakker orchestrates precise gestures: he gives life to copper, ceramics and wood; reveals the craftsman behind every curve and dent. Highlighted in this show, Jan Matthesius, Frans Ottink and Rutger Graas' expert techniques bring depth to every piece. And if it remains a challenge to design intelligent objects that last, Bakker imagines domestic objects with a soul: his copper Watering Can evokes an alphabet of its own, while his silver Salt Cellar simply asks to be anchored in daily routine.

It is with a unique point of view that Bakker further embraces the legacy of his mother Emmy van Leersum, a visionary jewellery designer, to enhance the beauty of a mundane object. From his father Gijs, who made a stellar name for himself in the design world, he inherited the urge to question and push boundaries. As design critic Alice Rawsthorn coined it in *The New York Times*, Aldo Bakker "is one of the new wave of designers who could be called design-auteurs for the same reason that François Truffaut dubbed his generation of experimental French filmmakers "auteurs" in 1954, because they treat their work as a medium of self-expression".

A designer, craftsman and visionary in his own right, Aldo Bakker's quiet genius stands the test of time.

—Marie Le Fort, Author & Curatorial Advisor