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Interview with Frederik Delbart – Sibling Lamp – PER/USE

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Gathering Belgium's burgeoning creative front under one roof, last month's Nationa(a)l gallery – held at Brussels' iconic Solvay factory from 9 to 25

May – featured the work of both established and up-and-coming talents. Among a slew of fashion vitrines, culinary experiences, music and cinema programming, a special design showcase served as both an exhibition and market place.

Representing Kortrijk-based Per/Use – an innovative design brand, vying to bridge the gap between customer and producer – Frederik Delbart revealed the latest iteration of his Siblings Lamp. *TLmag* spoke to the celebrated designer about his new creation, the value of pure material and his perspective on Belgian design.



Adrian Madlener: What is the concept behind the Siblings Lamp?

Frederik Delbart: The name Siblings came from the idea of combining two separate parts – a glass mono-structure with a wooden stem. The portable lampshade takes-on different characteristics when moved around.

Originally developed as my thesis from la Cambre, Siblings is now being produced by Per/Use.

AM: How did you choose the right materials?

FD: Though now working with LED and OLED technology, I wanted to return to the poetry created by incandescent light-bulbs. The Sibling is able to diffuse light but also contain it, in what appears to be a dissolving shell. Leaving their comfort zone, the technicians, we worked with, employed an extra strong moulding process, using medical-grade glass – fusing the lampshade and conjoined handle together. I love pure materials – glass and metal – but like to push them to new limits.

AM: How were you selected to take part in Nationa(a)l, what are your thoughts on this platform and the role of Belgian design?

FD: Originally launched in Milan, Siblings was selected to debut at Nationa(a)l. Its interesting to be in Brussels at this time of year – when there aren't really any big exhibitions or events. Sometimes country-based exhibitions can fall into cliches or become too patriotic. Instead, Nationa(a)l keeps a certain cross-disciplinary quality.

Though the name says it all, this pop-up exhibition cum store shows the diversity of Belgian creativity. In general, I'm not so fond of the international market – where our country hasn't received the recognition it deserves. Belgian design is characterized by a very different approach – combining rational and emotional reasoning, while making clear decisions, between democratic outcomes or exclusive gallery-based work. We don't really have a scene – like the Dutch, French or Scandinavians – but instead, we keep our feet on the ground and don't dream too much.



Tags: frederik delbart, per/use, sibling lamp

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