

Shared Matter

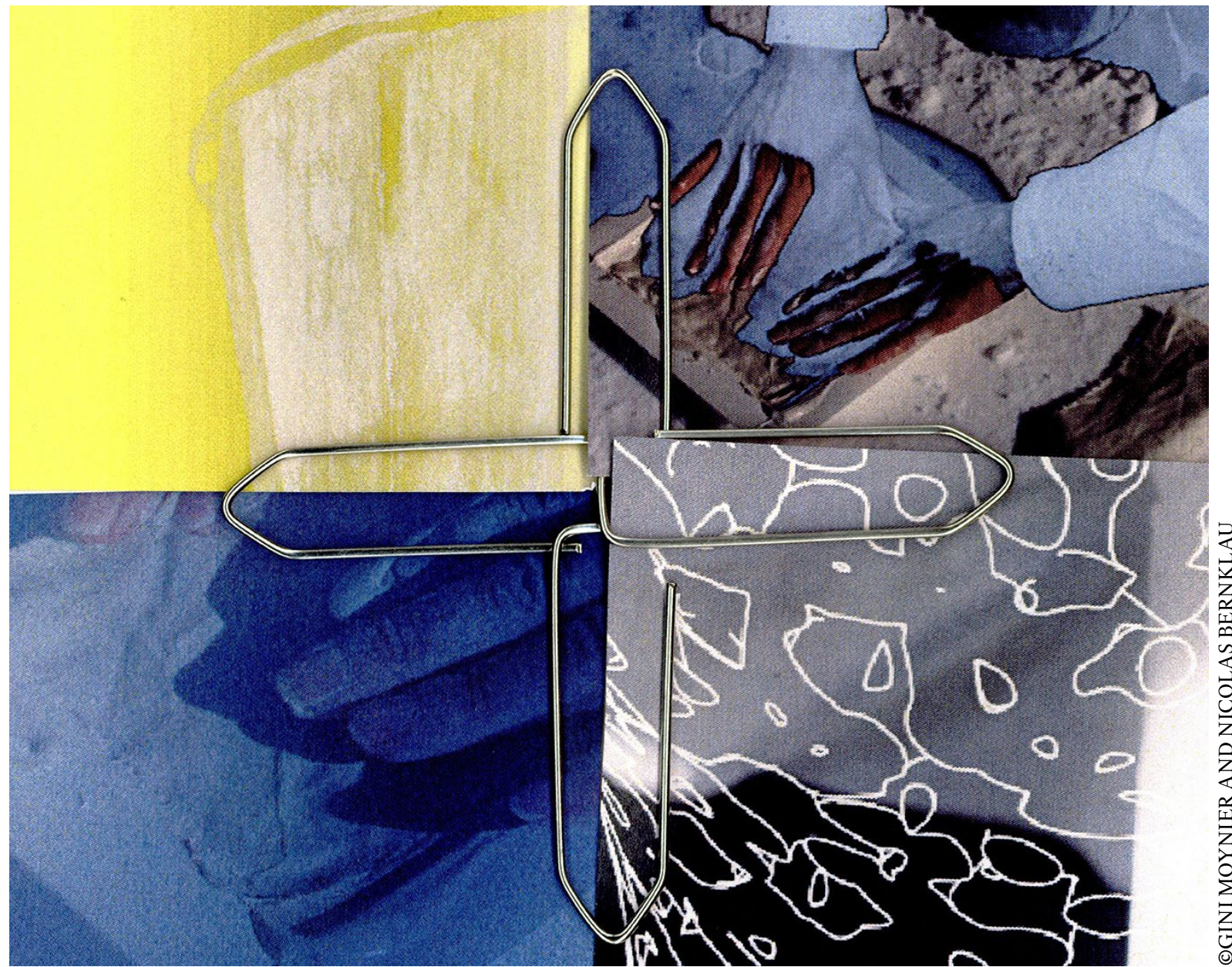
Switzerland presents

Mon 20 – Fri 24 April 2026,
10:00 – 19:00

at SPAZIOVENTO
Via Pinamonte da Vimercate 4,
20121 Milan

swiss arts council
prohelvetia

 **PRESENCE
SWITZERLAND**

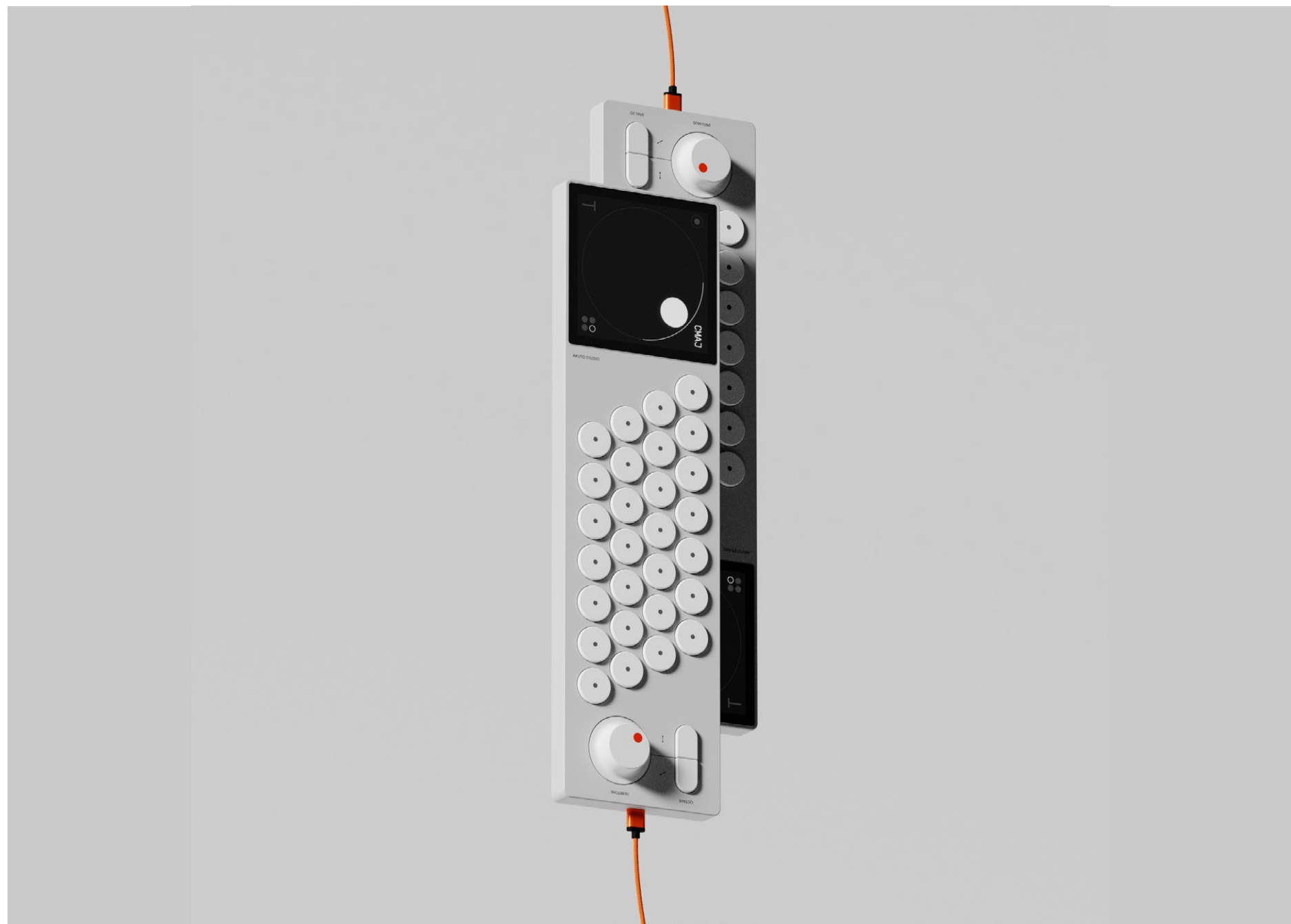


Presented by the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia in partnership with Presence Switzerland, the collective exhibition *Shared Matter* features a curated selection of six projects by emerging Swiss designers and design studios. Developed with interdisciplinary partners through research trips, residencies and self-initiated practice around the world, each project reveals how international collaboration propels design practices toward greater openness, responsibility and innovation.

From prototypes developed in a luthier's workshop in Athens, Akuto Studio created an intuitive musical instrument that reimagines the possibilities of chord playing. iiode collaborated with four different companies across Europe to design a sustainable LED bulb, using recycling-based processes to deliver tunable, natural light. Interlacing winter landscapes in Switzerland and Japan, Noelani Rutz worked with Japanese brand Tajimi Custom Tiles to capture the ephemeral qualities of snow in a new materiality. In close collaboration with Italian lighting company From Lighting, Panter&Tourron developed a multimodal, sculptural floor lamp crafted from aluminium, with a limited edition produced in partnership with the BWB Surface Technology for anodisation. Through research into traditional papermaking techniques with craftspeople in China's Yunnan province, Silvio Rebholz created a natural, biodegradable alternative to single-use plastic cups. Drawing on mat-making traditions from their respective cultures, Vera Roggli and Filipino designer Julia Villamonte worked together to produce a multifunctional mat that weaves inherited techniques into contemporary design practice.

Set within the singular architecture of SPAZIOVENTO, the exhibition unfolds as a deeply immersive environment shaped by a monochromatic graphic composition. The scenography, conceived by Swiss design duo Gini Moynier in collaboration with graphic designer Nicolas Bernklau, guides visitors through a space suspended between research, material reality, and speculation—where process carries as much significance as the outcome.

Objects are presented both as singular forms and in multiples, opening up conversations around context, use, and production potential. By making visible the shared knowledge, concerns, and ideas embedded in each collaboration, *Shared Matter* positions design as a relational practice that connects people not only to objects, but, perhaps more importantly, to each other.



©AKUTO STUDIO

PROJECT

Chord Machine AKT-o.I

Blending traditional craftsmanship with interaction design and Swiss quality standards, the *Chord Machine AKT-o.I* is an innovative musical instrument that reinvents how chords are played. Its minimalist design, inspired by Dieter Rams' aesthetic principles, and user-friendly interface enable anyone, regardless of musical training, to explore rich harmonic combinations quickly and enjoyably. With first prototypes developed in a luthier's workshop in Athens, the production was realised within China's rich manufacturing ecosystem, in collaboration with partners in Greece, New Zealand, and Switzerland.



©AKUTO STUDIO

DESIGNER

Akuto Studio

Akuto Studio was founded in 2021 by Guillaume Giraud, who developed the Chord Machine AKT-o.I as his diploma project at ECAL/University of Art and Design Lausanne. The studio derives its name from the Greek language, literally meaning “listen to it”—a nod to Greece, where Guillaume grew up and began making music. Operating at the intersection of design, craftsmanship, and technology, Akuto Studio creates innovative music experiences through accessible tools. The team includes Pablo Bellon, alfatih, Alex Tran, Jonathan Geissberger, Lucas Bonvin, Dimitris Barbakos, and Themis Papageorgiou, each bringing their own approach to music.

Akuto Studio received a work grant from Pro Helvetia in 2023.

WEBSITE: [AKUTOSTUDIO.COM](https://akutostudio.com)

INSTAGRAM: [@AKUTOSTUDIO](https://www.instagram.com/akutostudio)

SHARED MATTER



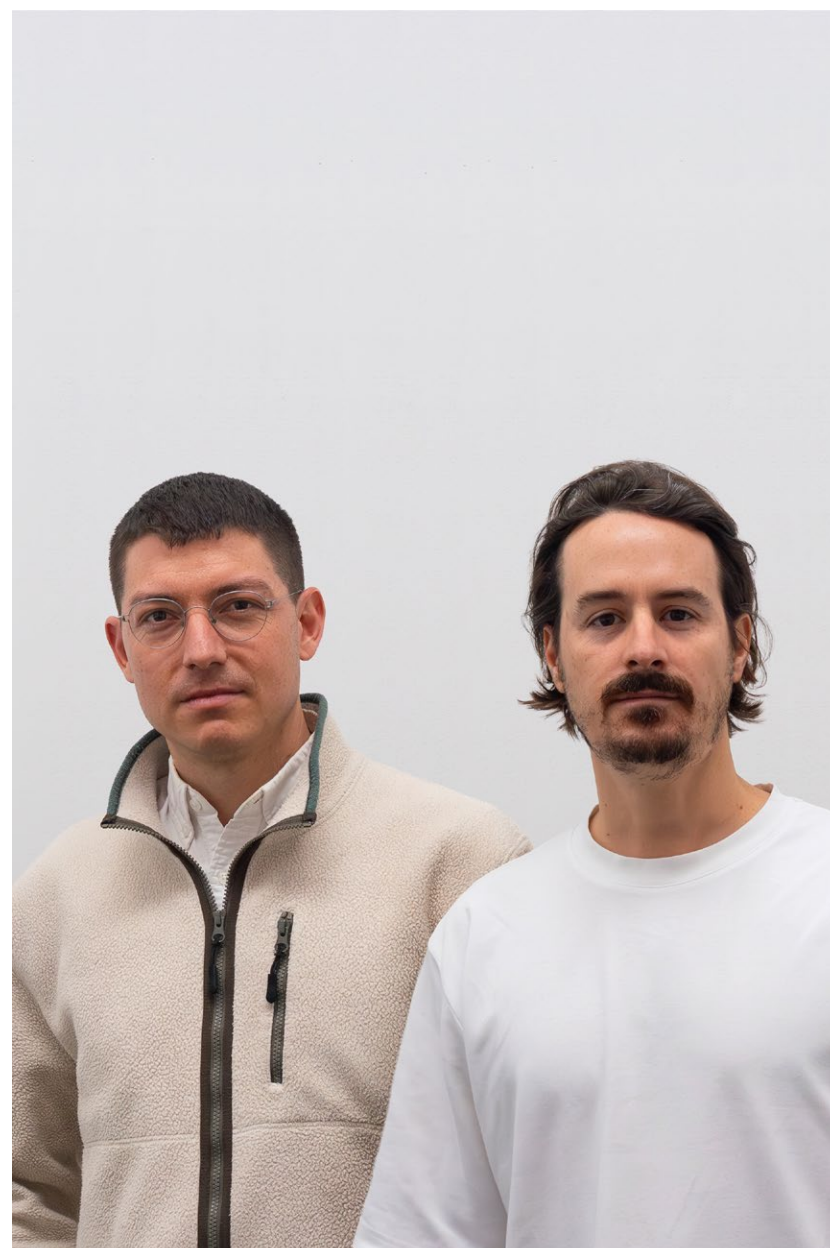
©IIODE

PROJECT

Re27

iiode's Re27 is a retrofit lighting module offering natural light quality and gentle smart control within a serviceable, standard E27 bulb made from recycled materials. Designed to be repairable and manufactured in Switzerland with parts sourced across Europe, Re27 reflects a considered approach to production, supported by a transparent supply chain developed with international partners. By focusing complexity at the light source, Re27 enables existing luminaires to be updated and supports new fixtures across many forms.

Re27 is lighting made conscious.



©IIODE

DESIGNER

iiode

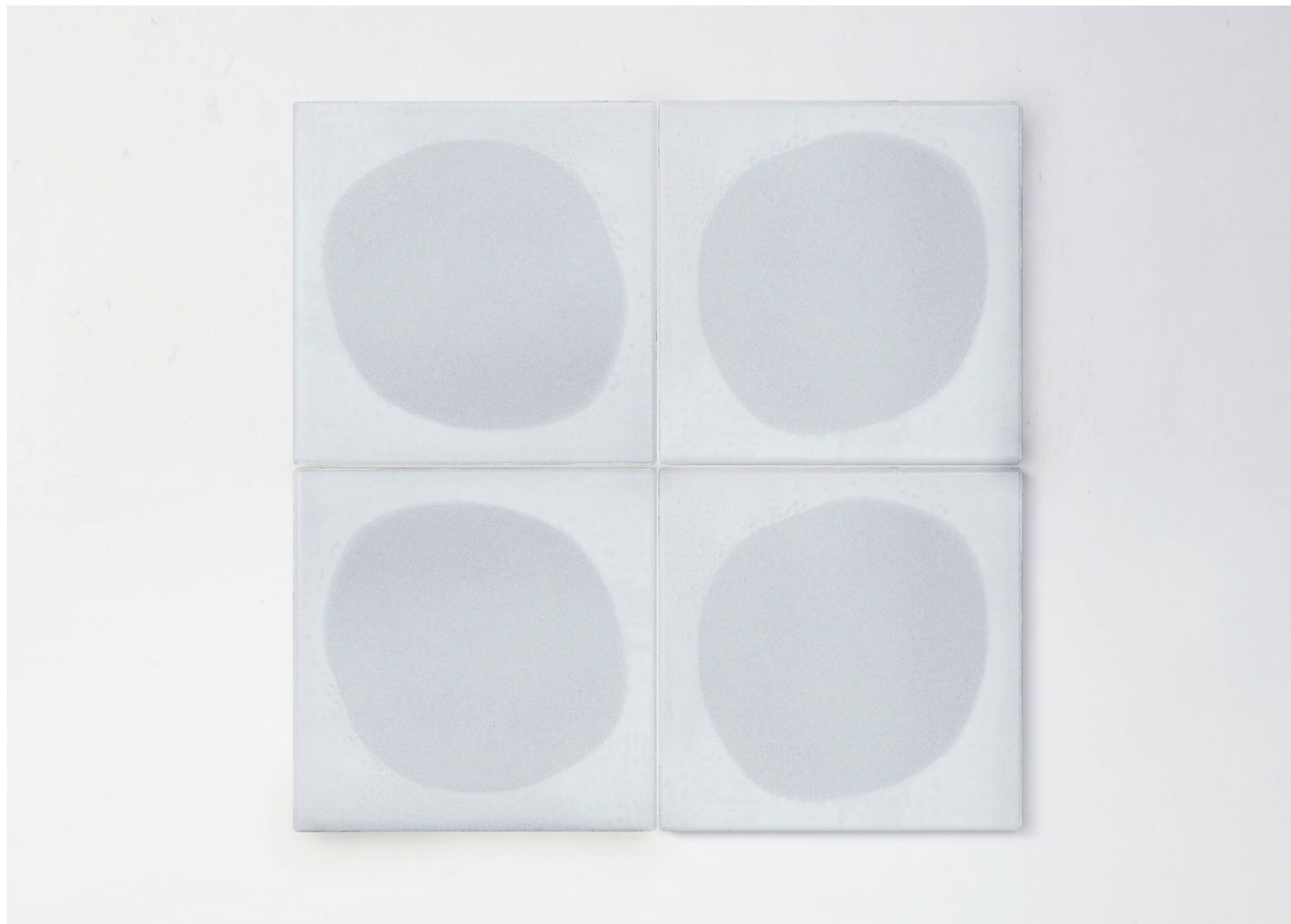
iiode is a lighting brand dedicated to creating bright, thoughtful products. Established in 2020 in Lausanne by Lucas Uhlmann, product designer, and Patrick Morris, architect, it approaches light-emitting diodes as a sensitive material rather than a purely technical component. Alongside its commissioned work in the design and production of objects, installations, and media systems, iiode has maintained a long-term research focus on sustainable electronics, leading to the 2026 launch of its first series product the Re27 light bulb.

iiode received a work grant from Pro Helvetia in 2023.

WEBSITE: [IIODE.COM](https://iiode.com)

INSTAGRAM: [@IIODE](https://www.instagram.com/iiode)

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©NOELANI RUTZ

PROJECT

Fleeting Landscapes

Resistant to temperature and time, clay preserves the impermanence of form and texture. *Fleeting landscapes* take the form of two tile collections that examine clay's materiality in relation to the dual nature of snow. Developed during the 2025 Design with Japan Pro Helvetia program and produced by Tajimi Custom Tiles with the maker Sugiura Seito Co., Ltd., the collection investigates two countries' long-standing tradition of observing and adapting to snow's ephemeral presence. Whether through direct casting or glaze translations, they speak to the seasonal and ecological fragility of snow—a quiet reminder of unavoidable change.



©JONAS MARGUET

DESIGNER

Noelani Rutz

Noelani Rutz is a Swiss product designer based in Zurich. She graduated with honors from ECAL/University of Art and Design Lausanne, where she worked as a teaching assistant the following two years. After gaining experience working for Shigeki Fujishiro in Tokyo and Jörg Boner product design in Zürich, she opened her studio in 2024, focusing on client-based product design, collectible craft objects for galleries and cultural mediation. With a keen eye for detailed simplicity, her hands-on approach commits to a thoughtful combination of traditional craft, material research and pragmatic solutions.

Noelani Rutz participated in the Design with Japan programme initiated by Pro Helvetia in 2025.

WEBSITE: [NOELANIRUTZ.COM](https://noelanirutz.com)

INSTAGRAM: [@NOELANIRUTZ](https://www.instagram.com/noelanirutz)

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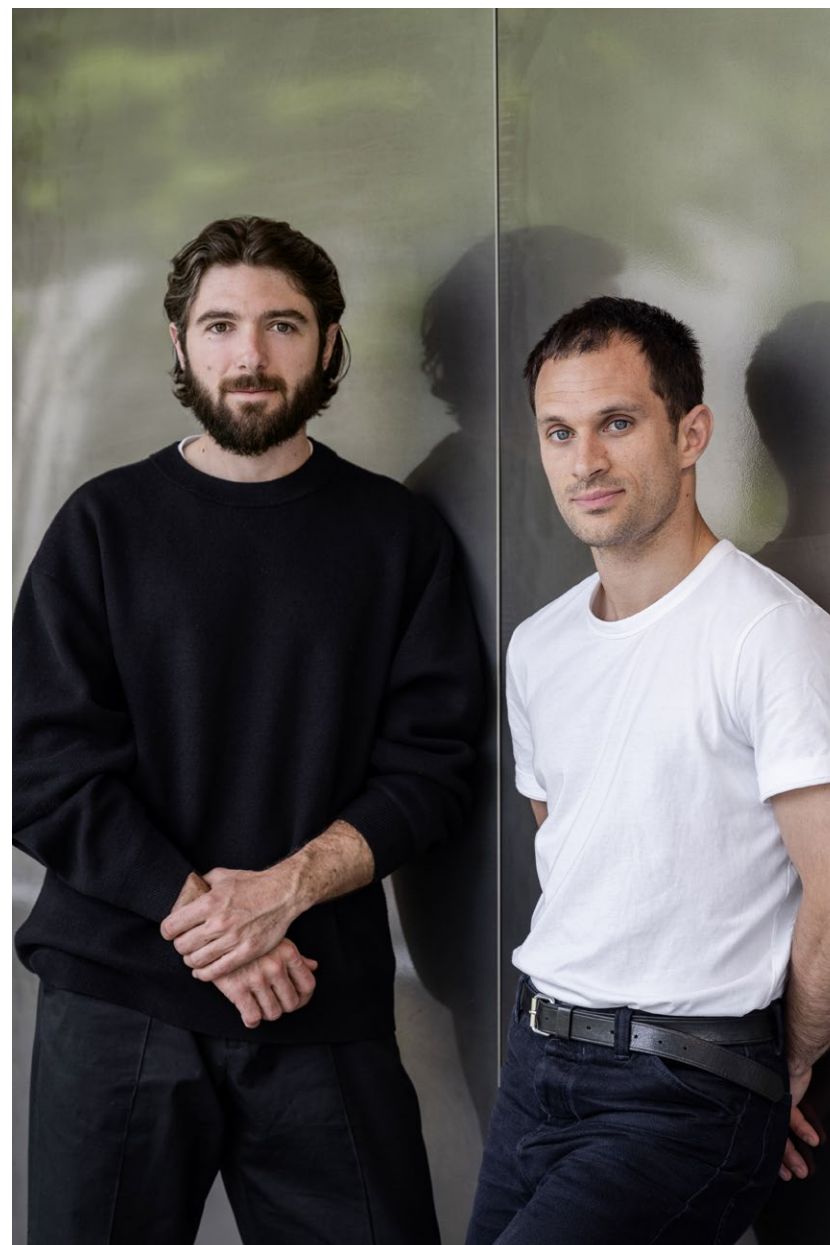


©PROFILER-SEBASTIAN VARGAS AND JEREMY AYER STUDIO

PROJECT

Hall Lamp

Hall Lamp is a floor lamp crafted from an extruded aluminum pipe and manufactured with a range of gradient colour treatments. Equipped with a dimmable LED, it offers adaptable lighting to suit a range of settings and moods, making it both a functional and sculptural piece. Designed by Panter&Tourron, the lamp is the result of a close collaboration with the Italian lighting company From Lighting. Within the frame of a project initiated by Profiler.world, a limited edition was developed in partnership with the BWB Surface Technology for the anodisation process.



©VITRA PHOTOGRAPHY DEJAN JOVANOVIĆ

DESIGNER

Panter&Tourron

Stefano Panterotto and Alexis Tourron met while studying at ECAL/University of Art and Design Lausanne where they both graduated with a Master's in Design for Luxury and Craftsmanship. They founded Panter&Tourron in Lausanne, a studio working at the intersection of design and technology through the creation of products and visual experiences. Driven by material investigation and technical innovation, the studio challenges the contemporary codes and boundaries of objects, spaces, and images through unexpected projects and research across product and spatial design, creative direction, and consulting.

Panter&Tourron received a work grant from Pro Helvetia in 2023.

WEBSITE: [PANTERTOURRON.COM](https://panter-tourron.com)

INSTAGRAM: [@PANTERTOURRON](https://www.instagram.com/panter-tourron)

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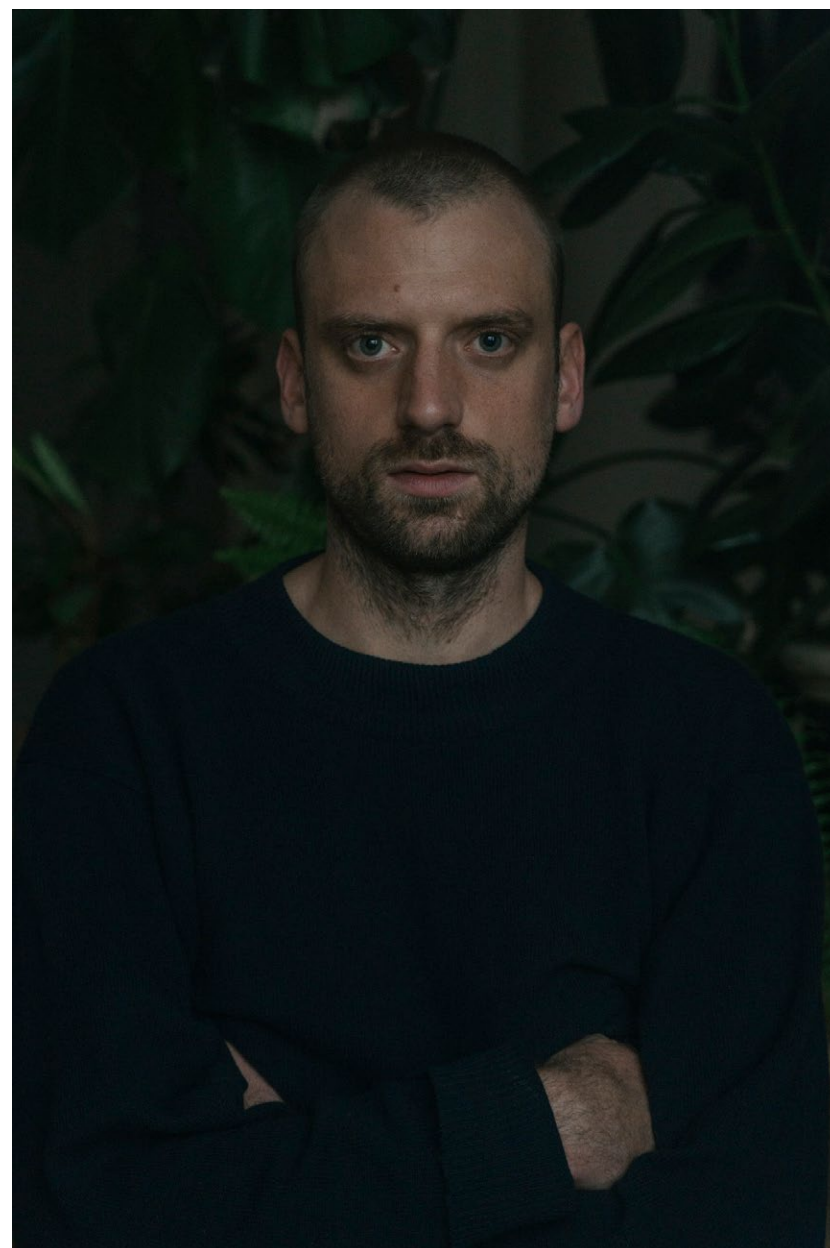


©SILVIO REBHOLZ

PROJECT

Paper Glasses

Drawing on the potential of 3D-molded paper, *Paper Glasses* proposes a natural and sustainable alternative to single-use plastic cups. Produced with molds coated in beeswax, its translucent form offers a tactile and visual experience typically associated with glass—reintroducing a sense of care and transparency in use, while remaining fully biodegradable. Developed during a Pro Helvetia research residency at the Róng Design Library in China, the project emerged from close collaboration with papermakers in Yunnan, blending traditional techniques with contemporary product design.



©JASMINE DEPORTA

DESIGNER

Silvio Rebholz

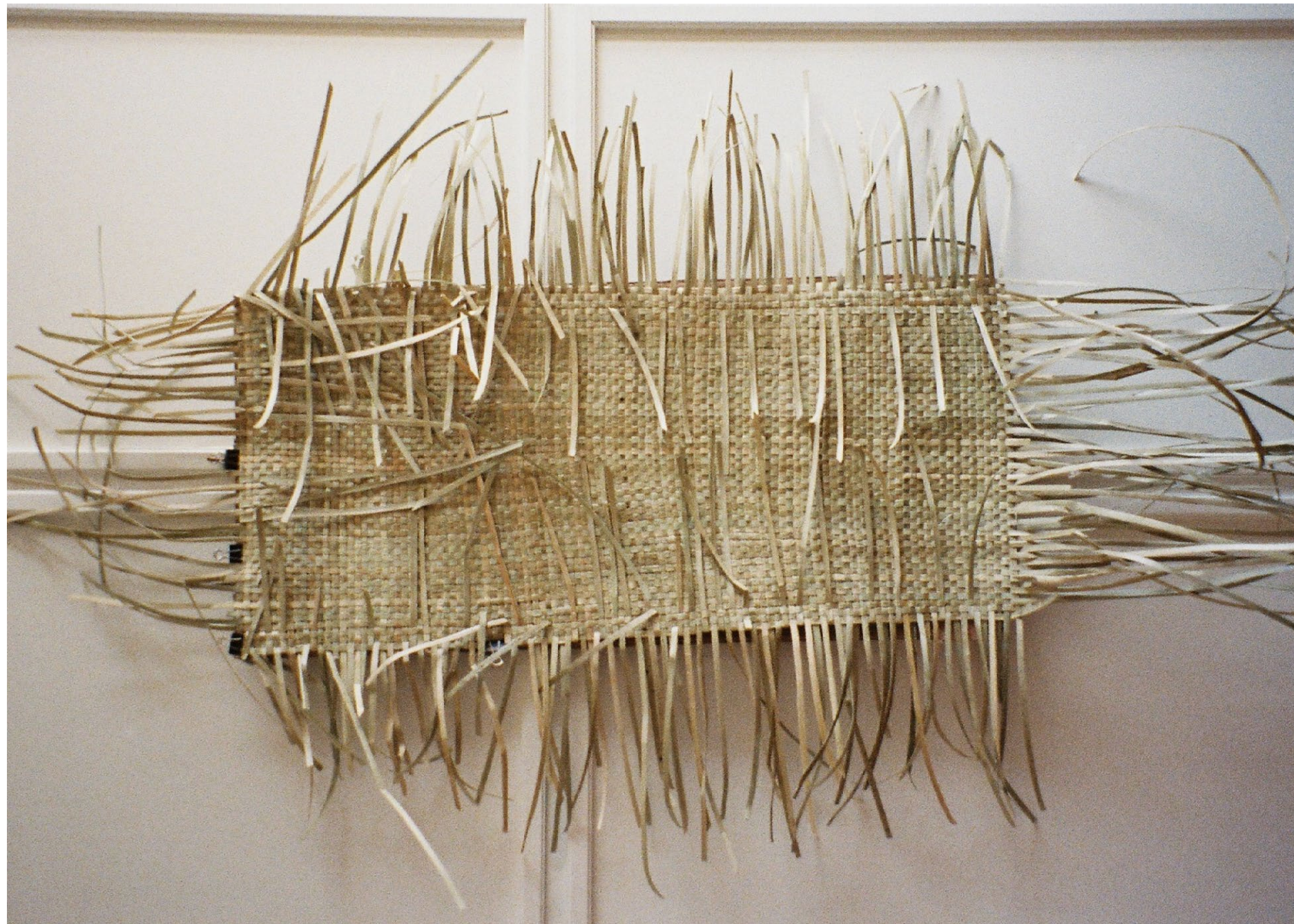
Silvio Rebholz is a German designer based in Lausanne. Since opening his studio in 2023, his practice has evolved across formats—ranging from objects and interviews to public installations and video—while remaining firmly rooted in a product design mindset. His work explores how design can support attentive and meaningful interactions through concrete, usable forms. Rebholz’s approach is guided by a strong commitment to environmental and social responsibility, as well as fostering open and collaborative processes.

Silvio Rebholz participated in the Pro Helvetia Shanghai residency at Róng Design Library in 2024 and received a work grant in 2025.

WEBSITE: [SILVIOREBHOLZ.DE](https://silviorebholz.de)

INSTAGRAM: [@SILVIO.REBHOLZ](https://www.instagram.com/silvio.rebholz)

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©VERAROGGLI AND JULIA VILLAMONTE

PROJECT

Sapin-Sapin

Sapin-Sapin is a multifunctional mat that can be folded into a low seating object, laid on the floor for sitting or resting, or installed as a hanging room divider. Handwoven from karagumoy leaves (*pandanus simplex*), it brings together traditional techniques and contemporary design to create a flexible, tactile object for everyday use. Combining their research and design backgrounds to produce a single object, Vera Roggli and Julia Villamonte developed the piece in close collaboration with weaving workshops in Julia's hometown of Labo, in the province of Camarines Norte, Philippines—connecting design, craft, and local expertise.



©VERAROGGLI AND JULIA VILLAMONTE

DESIGNER

Vera Roggli + Julia Villamonte

Following her studies in textile design and several years of experience in the fashion industry, Vera Roggli founded Ve Ro Studio in 2022. Based between Italy, Switzerland and Belgium, the studio engages in textile research, design, and development across disciplines, exploring both the structural and narrative dimensions of textiles. Through her studio Fili, Julia Villamonte translates her weaving practice into unique pieces and a growing collection crafted from Philippine-native materials, co-developed with local workshops. Trained in architecture, she brings a fascination with domestic objects to her work, exploring the relationships between material, place, and culture.

Vera Roggli received a work grant from Pro Helvetia in 2024.

WEBSITE: [FILI-FILI.COM](https://fili-fili.com)

INSTAGRAM: [@FILI__FILI__](https://www.instagram.com/fili_fili) + [@VE_RO_STUDIO](https://www.instagram.com/ve_ro_studio)

SHARED MATTER



Jury

All projects were selected through an open call by an international jury comprising Maddalena Casadei and Max Fraser. Drawing on their long-standing expertise, the jury selected projects not only for their quality and innovation, but also for their cultural and industry significance, their capacity to engage in critical dialogue, and their potential to reveal new ways of thinking and making in contemporary design.

Maddalena Casadei

Based in Milan, Maddalena Casadei is an architect and designer whose practice spans product design, art direction, interiors, and exhibition design, drawing on years of international experience and collaborations with leading studios. She is also active in education, teaching at Italian design universities and serving as a visiting professor at ECAL. Since 2025, she has held the official role of Jury Member for Design at Pro Helvetia.

WEBSITE: [MADDALENACASADEI.COM](https://maddalenacasadei.com) INSTAGRAM: [@MADDALENA_CASADEI](https://www.instagram.com/maddalena_casadei)

Max Fraser

London-based design writer and curator Max Fraser, Editorial Director of Dezeen, brings a global, critical perspective on contemporary design. With two decades of experience writing, editing, curating exhibitions, and consulting for cultural institutions, he has played a key role in expanding international discourse around design.

WEBSITE: [MAXFRASER.COM](https://maxfraser.com) INSTAGRAM: [@MAXFRASERDESIGN](https://www.instagram.com/maxfraserdesign)

“Design, at its core, is a fundamentally collaborative discipline. It doesn’t exist in isolation, nor should it. The most compelling work emerges when diverse voices contribute their knowledge and perspective. Collaboration keeps craft traditions alive, strengthens dialogue across sectors, and opens the door to innovative, relevant ideas that respond to real social and environmental challenges. When we treat design as a shared cultural ecosystem rather than a solitary pursuit, we create space for richer understanding and more meaningful change.”—Quote from the Jury

Network Partners' Events

Romane de Watteville “I’ll miss you when I scroll away”

On the occasion of Milano Design Week, Istituto Svizzero presents a project that brings contemporary art and design into dialogue through the exhibition I’ll miss you when I scroll away by Romane de Watteville. The installation takes a traditional interior design element—the folding screen—as its point of departure. De Watteville expands, multiplies and amplifies the object’s dual role as both narrative and architectural device, linking it to contemporary ways of consuming content shaped by scrolling, reproducibility and accumulation. The exhibition unfolds as a hybrid environment where design emerges as a critical field, capable of questioning the desires, excesses and accelerated temporalities that define contemporary aesthetic and affective experience.

Running from: 15 April–4 July 2026
at Istituto Svizzero, Via del Vecchio Politecnico, 3, 20121 Milan

PRESENTED BY ISTITUTO SVIZZERO, MILANO —
CURATED BY LUCREZIA CALABRÒ VISCONTI, HEAD CURATOR AT ISTITUTO SVIZZERO

WEBSITE: [ISTITUTOSVIZZERO.IT](https://istitutsvizzero.it) INSTAGRAM: [@ISTITUTOSVIZZERO](https://www.instagram.com/istitutsvizzero) [@ROMANEDEWATT](https://www.instagram.com/romanedewatt)

Swiss Breakfast

As a yearly tradition, the Swiss design industry is welcomed to gather for a cappuccino and cornetti with a beautiful view over Milan. The breakfast will be followed by a guided design-walk to discover inspiring Swiss design. RSVP (via [link](#)) is recommended as space is limited.

Wednesday 22 April, 09:00–11:00
at Terrazza Palestro, Centro Svizzero – 4th floor, Via Palestro 2, 20121 Milan

ORGANIZED BY THE SWISS DESIGN ASSOCIATION, FEDERAL OFFICE OF CULTURE AND THE SWISS ARTS COUNCIL PRO HELVETIA
WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND IN MILAN AND SWISS BUSINESS HUB ITALY.

WEBSITE: [SWISS-DESIGN-ASSOCIATION.CH](https://swiss-design-association.ch) INSTAGRAM: [@SWISSDESIGNASSOCIATION_SDA](https://www.instagram.com/swissdesignassociation_sda)

Presented by

Pro Helvetia

The Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia supports and promotes the creation and dissemination of contemporary, professional art from Switzerland, as well as cultural exchange both within the country and abroad. In addition to the head office in Zurich, the foundation is represented internationally by its branch offices.

WEBSITE: PROHELVETIA.CH

INSTAGRAM: [@PROHELVETIA_DESIGN](https://www.instagram.com/PROHELVETIA_DESIGN)

Partners

Presence Switzerland

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNER

Presence Switzerland is the organizational unit for nation branding and public diplomacy of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. On the basis of the Federal Act on the Cultivation of Switzerland's Image Abroad, it implements Switzerland's Strategy for Communication Abroad. It supports the safeguarding of Switzerland's interests abroad by using public relation tools. It explains the country's strengths, positions and actions and contributes to a positive and nuanced perception of Switzerland through targeted communication activities.

WEBSITE: PRESENCE SWITZERLAND

INSTAGRAM: [@ABOUTSWITZERLAND](https://www.instagram.com/ABOUTSWITZERLAND)

Karimoku

OFFICIAL PARTNER

KNS (Karimoku New Standard), founded in 2009, is a brand that combines progressive ideas and manufacturing excellence. Bringing together the unique perspectives of Karimoku Furniture's craftsmen and a select group of international designers, the brand presents new standards in Japanese furniture design. By using domestic low-diameter hardwood trees, which are often discarded or used as paper pulp, KNS aims to make a sustainable contribution to the challenges facing Japan's forests, such as revitalization of the forests and the industries they support.

WEBSITE: [KARIMOKU \(KNS\)](http://KARIMOKU (KNS))

INSTAGRAM: [@KARIMOKUNEWSTANDARD](https://www.instagram.com/KARIMOKUNEWSTANDARD)

Supported by

OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS:

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[Swiss Design Association](#), [Federal Office of Culture](#), [Istituto Svizzero](#)

Shared Matter

Mon 20 – Fri 24 April 2026, 10:00 – 19:00
at SPAZIOVENTO, Via Pinamonte da Vimercate 4, 20121 Milan

PRESS DAY:

Mon 20 April 2026, 10:00 – 18:00

MEDIA REQUESTS (NATIONAL AND ITALIAN):

Tania Luchena, Communications, Pro Helvetia: TLUCHENA@PROHELVETIA.CH

MEDIA REQUESTS (INTERNATIONAL):

Romain Casella, May Concepts Ltd: SHAREDMAATTER@MAYCONCEPTS.COM

LINKS

[Link to Imagery](#)

WEBSITE: [DESIGN.SWISS](https://design.swiss)

INSTAGRAM: [@PROHELVETIA_DESIGN](#)

swiss arts council

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