imm cologne

the international furnishing show

13 - 19 January 2014

curators

Agnieszka Jacobson-Cielecka / www.agnieszka-jacobson.pl

Paweł Grobelny / www.pawelgrobelny.com

organizers

Polish Institute Düsseldorf / www.polnisches-institut.de

Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Cologne – Department of Trade and Investment Regional Museum in Stalowa Wola / www.muzeum.stalowawola.pl

production

Regional Museum in Stalowa Wola

The exposition was initiated by the Polish Institute in Düsseldorf and organized in cooperation with the Department of Trade and Investment of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Cologne, and the Regional Museum in Stalowa Wola.

graphic design Beton







The **Polished Up. Design from Poland** exhibition is a continuation of the **Unpolished** (www.unpolished.pl) project, presented successfully throughout the years 2009-2013 at 20 venues across Europe and Asia, i.e. in the Design Museums in Cologne and Helsinki, the Museum of Modern Art in Bucharest, the Museum of Decorative Arts in Budapest and at numerous design festivals. The Unpolished exhibition focused on design fundamentals of a generation raised in the times of political and economical transformation. Young designers decided to design, produce and promote their products on their own, independently. Most often it were short series of products manufactured single-handedly or in collaboration with craftsmen and small factories.

Five years later, these designers and their younger colleagues have managed to successfully cooperate with the industry, implementing their designs into production or professionally manufacturing them on their own - a sign of their design abilities, but also their technological proficiency, ability to cooperate in teams and comprehension of the market.

The cooperation between the designer and the producer, the conscious decision to take the risk of

launching a product addressed to a specific group of consumers, was exactly the criterium we applied in our selection of exhibits. Although the target group is often an elite, and although the chosen products are far from being mass-produced, these objects prove that Polish market is changing and ripening. The exhibition is also proof that there are numerous fascinating implementations, which are the fruit of collaboration between Polish designers and Polish production companies. Not all objects were produced in big factories, some of them are still produced in limited series by the authors. However, the designers who decided to manage the production process know how to approach it, and have sufficient knowledge to distribute them.

Polished Up is a subjective, curatorial choice, which aims to present the current situation of design in Poland. This is only a fragment of a bigger picture, but in our view one which is significant and worth attention.

During five years, one thing has not changed: Polish designers still keep it simple. They have a sense of humour. They still appreciate natural materials, and flirt with craftsmanship and tradition.

Agnieszka Jacobson-Cielecka + Paweł Grobelny

































