

During the spring fairs Anna Bera, Polish designer will present for the first time her debut series of multifunctional furniture to the international audience. The Earth Stone Wood collection will be exhibited in April, during the Milano Design Week and in May, within the frames of NYCxDESIGN – a platform bringing together a number of events dedicated to promoting design and fostering the international creative community, taking place in New York. Anna Bera is one of the 32 finalists of the Launch Pad program - one of the main points of the Wanted Design Manhattan festival.

The collection of modular furniture Earth Stone Wood, created by Anna Bera studio leads our imagination to the ancient stone circles, found in one of the oldest mountains in Europe - the Świętokrzyskie Mountains. The designer reaches for the energy of the orthoquartzite rocks, referring to the beliefs and spirituality of the ancient Slavs. In this bygone culture and rituals she seeks for hidden order and the natural state of things. She promotes the idea of returning to natural resources, and combines it with an emphasis on modern design.

This philosophy has resulted in a collection of unique furniture, made of solid wood, where every single item is handmade by the artist. Anna Bera creates furniture, among others, from cherry wood and recycled fir wood. She also uses a traditional Japanese *shou sugi ban* wood burning technique. Single piece of furniture can serve as a table, a seat, or a storage unit. A set of two or more elements can be combined to compose a cabinet. The set of all elements constitutes a piece of multifunctional and modular furniture. The dynamic spatial relations between the elements introduce the changeability typical for natural landscapes.

The Earth Stone Wood furniture collection is a naturalistic study of the structure of the orthoquartzite rock. The designer aims to create a functional piece of furniture by introducing indoors a fragment of natural landscape, assuming that this landscape and the nature in general may be characterized by the coexistence of order and chaos. Anna Bera believes that the mission of a contemporary designer is to create spaces relating to the natural environment and its attributes, such as mystery, hidden order, changeability, sensory richness, and dynamic natural light.

The exhibitions in Milan and in New York are organized in collaboration with Culture.pl as a part of the program to promote Polish design worldwide, and with the Polish Cultural Institute New York as well as with the Institute of Design Kielce Castle Hill. The project is also supported by the Bieliny Community and the Polish General Consulate in Milan. The exhibitions take place under the patronage of the Regional Museum in Stalowa Wola.

**The Whole Elements** is a design studio and a carpentry workshop established by Anna Bera in 2014. The artist creates handcrafted wooden furniture, on the border of art and design, in short series or as unique items. Anna Bera is a designer, visual artist, sculptor, set designer and a carpenter. She graduated from the Faculty of Architecture and Design at the Academy of Fine Arts in Poznan. In the field of her interest lies the search for the appropriate form for the implementation of intellectual assumptions based on previous research. She draws her inspiration from a research on the human relationship with nature, in a biological, cultural and spiritual context. In this process the contact with the material is extremely important for the artist, that is why her studio from the very beginning was strictly associated with the workshop, where she implements all her projects.

[www.thewholeelements.com](http://www.thewholeelements.com)

High resolution photographs:

[https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B3PhfzM\\_QDaPNHhhNmhHbDBVZjQ&usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B3PhfzM_QDaPNHhhNmhHbDBVZjQ&usp=sharing)

### Ventura Lambrate 2016

12-17.04.2016, Ventura Station, Via Privata Oslavia 7, 20134 Milan  
[www.venturaprojects.com](http://www.venturaprojects.com)

The exhibition is organized in collaboration with Culture.pl as a part of the program to promote Polish design worldwide, and with the Institute of Design Kielce Castle Hill. The project is also supported by the Bieliny Community and by the Polish General Consulate in Milan, under the patronage of the Regional Museum in Stalowa Wola.

### Launch Pad Wanted Design Manhattan 2016

13-16.05.2016, Terminal Stores, 269 11th Avenue, New York  
[www.wanteddesignnyc.com](http://www.wanteddesignnyc.com)

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The goal of Culture.pl, the Adam Mickiewicz Institute's flagship brand, is to promote Poland and Polish culture abroad. Through the presentation of high-quality initiatives and events in the fields of art, music, and design, Culture.pl aspires to introduce an international audience to contemporary Polish culture. The Culture.pl website provides daily fresh information on the most exciting Polish cultural events worldwide; it is also the biggest and most comprehensive source of knowledge about Polish culture. A special section dedicated to Polish design includes information about the latest trends, and the newest projects by Polish designers – the young and up-and-coming and the well-established and world-renowned. Worldwide promotion of Polish design and its continuous support is one of the Adam Mickiewicz Institute's main priorities. Design serves as a platform for the presentation of contemporary Polish culture and the promotion of Polish creativity. Our success in the pursuit of this goal has been possible thanks to fruitful cooperation with such renowned partners as Ventura Lambrate (Milan), London Design Festival, Maison&Objet (Paris), Paris Design Week, DW! São Paulo Design Weekend, Inno Design Tech Expo (Hong Kong), Business of Design Week (Hong Kong), Istanbul Design Week, International Furniture Fair Singapore, Design Trade Copenhagen, International Contemporary Furniture Fair (New York), Wanted Design (New York), Stockholm Furniture and Light Fair, What Design Can Do! (Amsterdam), Dutch Design Week (Eindhoven) and Wallpaper\*.  
[www.culture.pl](http://www.culture.pl)

The Polish Cultural Institute in New York is a diplomatic mission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, operating in the area of public diplomacy since 2000. The Institute's mission is to disseminate around the world comprehensive knowledge of Poland, Polish history and national heritage, as well as to promote emerging artists, designers, and contemporary contributions to the success of world culture. The Institute does so through initiating and supporting collaboration between Poland and the United States in the areas of art, education, research, design and in many other aspects of intellectual and social life. The Institute's main goal is to ensure Polish participation in the programming of America's most important cultural institutions as well as in large international initiatives. The Institute works with renowned cultural and academic centers and opinion leaders operating on the American market. Its main partners include such prestigious organizations as Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, BAM, the Museum of Modern Art, PEN American Center, the Poetry Society of America, the National Gallery of Art, Yale University, Columbia University, Princeton University, the Harvard Film Archive, the CUNY Graduate Center, the Juilliard School of Music, the New Museum, the Jewish Museum, La MaMa E.T.C. and many others. For more than fifteen years, it has presented Americans the achievements of outstanding Polish artists, including the filmmakers Roman Polanski, Andrzej Wajda and Jerzy Skolimowski; the writers Czesław Miłosz, Adam Zagajewski and Wisława Szymborska; the composers Krzysztof Penderecki, Witold Lutosławski and Mikołaj Górecki; theater artists Krystian Lupa, Jerzy Grotowski and Tadeusz Kantor; the visual artists Krzysztof Wodiczko, Katarzyna Kozyra, Alina Szapocznikow and many other important figures in the arts. The Institute initiates and actively participates in debates around the humanities in the broad sense, including those concerning history and the today's most important social and political occurrences.  
[www.PolishCulture-NYC.org](http://www.PolishCulture-NYC.org)

### *Additional information:*

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