

DEMISCH DANANT

Jos Devriendt *I AM I*



Jos Devriendt, *Night & Day 136*, 2017
Glazed ceramic
6.89 H x 9.45 x 6.3 inches
17.5 H x 24 x 16 cm
Unique

Demisch Danant
October 26 - December 16, 2017
30 West 12th Street
New York City

New York... Demisch Danant is pleased to announce *I AM I*, an exhibition of ceramic works by celebrated Belgian artist-designer Jos Devriendt. Comprising more than 90 unique lamps, vessels, and objects, the presentation will be Devriendt's first solo exhibition in New York City.

On view from October 26 through December 16, 2017, *I AM I* continues Demisch Danant's exploration into European design since the 1950s, through exhibitions, publications, and programs that connect postwar and contemporary advances in form and technology as points along a continuum of cultural change.

For the past 20 years, Devriendt has been working with the mushroom as an archetypal form translated into functional sculpture. Part of an ongoing series known as *Night and Day*, Devriendt's lamps express his interest in the ways in which time and atmosphere can transform our perception of objects and contexts. Deftly rendered in porcelain, each lamp is a mushroom-like form illuminated in the daytime by natural light that filters through its delicate porcelain. At night, the same works appear to morph, abstracted by the glow of electrical illumination from within when a switch is turned. The color of each piece changes and further redefines its scale, and its place in time and space.

Devriendt describes his purpose as follows: "As a sculptor I want to reshape the form from day to night, solely with light: the daylight, which shines upon the sculpture and the artificial light, which comes from within and erases the material form. After researching the form, I experimented with different colors as a means to alter the meaning of the form. Like abstract painters use colors to give a meaning to their work, I do in a three-dimensional way."

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Devriendt's porcelain vases have resulted from a twenty-year investigation into the ways design can "meld aesthetics, symbolism, and associations or states of mind." Whereas his lamps abstract the mushroom that might be found on a walk in a forest or field, the artist's vases ascend to an almost theoretical plane: Rendered as pure forms intended to sit empty, they merely suggest the magic of flowers as a powerful experience beyond our capture. Devriendt has described these works as the outcome of his desire "not to look further and to leave flowers where they are, in nature," adding that "an ending can also be something hopeful."

/ AM / will also include a selection of small sculptural objects, each expressing Devriendt's relationship to minimalist sculpture and his commitment to deceptively simple forms as vehicles for visual, intellectual, and emotional conditions.



Jos Devriendt, Ceramic vases from the series *Einde van de vaas (End of the vase)*, 1993

About the Artist

Born in Ostend in 1964, Belgian designer Jos Devriendt's works are based on a late-surrealistic concept. His industrial designs are handcrafted and present simple solutions for rather complex problems. Devriendt studied ceramics at the LUCA School of Arts and sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts, Ghent.

About Demisch Danant

Demisch Danant was founded in 2005 by Suzanne Demisch and Stephane Danant. The gallery specializes in twentieth century French design with an emphasis on the late 1950s through the 1970s and represents the work of Maria Pergay, Pierre Paulin, Joseph-André Motte, Pierre Guariche, Michel Boyer, Antoine Philippon & Jacqueline Lecoq, and René-Jean Caillette. Curated exhibitions on historical work are presented within environments that reference architecture and interiors of the era.

The gallery also features exhibitions concerning the intersection of architecture, design and art, including the work of Sheila Hicks, Felice Varini, Krijn de Koning, and César.

Demisch Danant is dedicated to research and scholarship on French design and has authored and published monographs including *Antoine Philippon and Jacqueline Lecoq* and *Maria Pergay: Complete Works 1957-2010*. Current projects include a comprehensive monograph on seminal designer Joseph-André Motte, and a new book about the architectural commission works of artist Sheila Hicks.

Demisch Danant is open to the public Monday through Friday, 10AM-6PM; Saturday 12PM-5PM.

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