

## **Corps subtils**

### **A carte blanche given to Felipe Ribon**

From August the 5th until November the 2nd 2015, the Museum of Decorative arts and Design in Bordeaux will be holding an exhibition of the work of Felipe Ribon, who is being given *carte blanche* to use the premises of the Lalande's town house. The designer devises an immersive circuit in the heart of the collections, inspired by the surprising history of the place and those who have lived in it, since the end of the 18th century.

Two of his latest projects will engage in a dialogue: *Mind the Gap* and *ae – objets médium*, the outcome of the way he challenges our relation to things perceptible.

After studying engineering at the Ecole des Mines in Nantes, Felipe Ribon attended the Ecole nationale supérieure de création industrielle [ENSCI – Les Ateliers], he graduated in 2008. He embarked on his professional career in the Bouroullec studio, which he left in 2012 for a residency at the Villa Médicis in Rome. It was there that he developed his work on objects as *medium*, in the wake of his *Mind the Gap* project.

The aim of *Mind the Gap*, which was developed and produced in 2012 with the backing of the Audi Talents Awards, of which he is himself a recipient, is to put hypnosis within reach of one and all. Widely used in therapeutic circles, and today at last practiced in hospitals, hypnosis is also a guarantee of well-being; it involves a necessary and natural process which we have nevertheless learnt to shun in favour of productivity but at the expense of our own equilibrium. Felipe Ribon designs wood, carpets, tables and other items of furniture to encourage the hypnotic trance. In devising new areas for design, Felipe Ribon sidesteps the boundaries set up by Cartesian rationalism, while still remaining faithful to the demands of his discipline.

*ae – objets médium* is thus a series of objects whose main function is to facilitate contact with what lies beyond. With revolving tables, automatic writing tablets, and talking boards, Felipe Ribon enriches a vocabulary of objects which has remained unchanged since the 19th century, a climactic moment for spiritualism. We are in fact acquainted with Victor Hugo's notebooks compiled in the *Book of Tables*, describing spiritualist séances organized on the Island of Jersey, and with the *Memoirs* of Thomas Edison, in which he writes that he is dreaming of "providing spiritualist researchers with an apparatus which might enable them to work in a strictly scientific way".

Felipe Ribon's refusal of conceptual restrictions, his re-questioning of preconceived ideas, and his suspicion of everything that seems obvious are key factors in the approach of this young FrancoColombian artist, nourished by a multiculturalism which forces him to readily adopt surprising and unusual viewpoints. He challenges the possibility of using new areas and shedding rules.

Constance Rubini, Director of the Museum of Decorative arts and Design, met Felipe Ribon in 2009 at the Villa Noailles. She immediately expressed her enthusiasm for his innovative project of a bathroom using technical fabrics instead of ceramics (*Another Bathroom*) and has been keeping an eye on his work ever since. In 2010, when she was the general curator of the Saint-Etienne Biennale, she invited him to come up with an exhibition which would usher in an intuitive and experimental approach to contemporary light. A subject which echoed his work as a photographer and the quintessential role he earmarks for light in the revelation of existing things.

In 2012, Constance Rubini was a member of the jury which gave him the Audi Talent Awards in the Design section. Together with the goldsmith Nicolas Marischaël, Felipe Ribon has just won the 16th *Prix Liliane Bettencourt pour l'intelligence de la main*, for their work *Osmos*.

The museum of Decorative Arts and Design thanks for their support :

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## **Practical informations**

- **08.05 - 11.02.2015**  
(in the permanent collection)
- from **2.00 pm** to **6.00 pm**
- closed on Tuesdays and November the 1st
- **4 €** (full price) / **2 €** (reduced price)  
(reduced price for unemployed individuals, students and groups of 10 people and more.  
free admission for Amis de l'hôtel de Lalande, holder of the Young-railcard of Bordeaux, holder of the Bordeaux Museums Pass)
- guided tour of the exhibition every Saturday
- more informations: +33 (0)5 56 10 14 00

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