



JO NAGASAKA
FLAT TABLES

4 July – 15 August 2014

Gallery Libby Sellers is pleased to present our first exhibition of works by Japanese architect and designer Jo Nagasaka (b. Osaka, Japan 1971).

Having previously been included in the British Council's group exhibition *Mark-ing* at Gallery Libby Sellers in 2013, Nagasaka returns with a solo presentation of the Flat Tables series which has been in development since 2009. Throughout this series Nagasaka explores his ongoing interest in finding modern solutions for abandoned objects through poetic re-purposing techniques. The 'Flat Tables' series takes found workstations and tabletops which are renewed through a layer of coloured epoxy resin in order to reveal and celebrate the textures of the woods, their time-weathered surfaces and the many narratives embedded in these cuts, scratches and abrasions.

The idea was first conceived for the Sayama Flat (2008) when Nagasaka and his colleagues removed the then-current flooring to expose a bumpy concrete surface, which, in turn, was transformed into a smooth floor by casting epoxy resin over the concrete. For Nagasaka, this circle of (re)invention is "design as renewing of knowledge". As Stockholm based curator Ikko Yokoyama has written of the 'Flat Tables', "In this case, 'renewing the knowledge' means to notice something unseen before, i.e. how the colored liquid gradation reveals a history passed through the table's surface which is twisted and scratched by time... The ... point [of] this project emerges by adjusting the dysfunctional to functional [in order] to reveal a story and create perceptual beauty."

Following his graduation from Tokyo National University of Arts, Nagasaka founded "Studio Schema" (currently Schemata Architecture Office) in 1998. In 2007, the office relocated to Kamimeguro and a collaboration office called "happa" that shares a gallery and other facilities was established. Among his works are Sayama Flat (2008); House in Okusawa (2010); Aesop Aoyama/Ginza (2011); Papabubble store, Tokyo Daimaru (2012); Udukuri for Established and Sons (2012); Takeo Kikuchi store, Tokyo (2012); ColoRing at Rossana Orlandi (2013); 3.1 Philip Lim Pop-Up store (2013/2014); Shibari/Take-Kago for ICHIRO (2014); Design of the year 2014 London Design Museum; Wallpaper* Handmade in collaboration with Hancock (2014).

Presented in association with Gallery Show Me, Portugal.

Opening times:

Tuesday – Friday, 11am – 6pm

Saturday, 11am – 4pm

For further information, availability, prices or images please contact Gallery Libby Sellers

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