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Oscar Narud and Amy Hunting's Copper Mirror Series

Copper Mirror Series by Hunting & Narud

London

12 September 2013

A series of eight free-standing copper mirrors by the Norwegian designers Amy Hunting and Oscar Narud pays tribute to the topographical heritage of Norway.

The reflective surface of the mirrors are circular copper plates, which are held in place on stalks of steel piping. At their base, the mirrors are anchored by rough-hewn stone.

The designs, which are on display at London's Gallery Libby Sellers' throughout London Design Festival, were initially created as part of the studio's exhibition design for the Fashion Scandinavia show at Somerset house in March 2013, a display of Nordic fashion designers' work that included contributions from Henrik Vibskov, Ilse Jacobsen and Peter Jensen.

"The idea was that the mirrors would reflect and showcase the mannequins" says Narud.

"We decided to make these singular objects instead of doing traditional exhibition design, as we were quite driven to do something that could have a longer life than the exhibition itself.

So the mirrors became a series of prototypes which we then could build on and try to develop."

The mirrors commissioned by Gallery Libby Sellers are a progression of the Fashion Scandinavia pieces. Slabs of silver granite have replaced the original slate bases, while the mirrors are now made from two conjoined copper discs, whereas previously they were constructed from sheet copper laminated onto a wooden core.

Hunting & Narud has introduced a hollow central channel to the copper plates, allowing them to pivot about a vertical or horizontal axis. "It allows you to change them and play around with them in relation to the space and the way in which they cast reflections," says Narud.

While Hunting & Narud's studio is based in east London, the mirror series pays homage to the two designers' native Norway. The country's modern industry was founded on mines operating in the 18th and 19th centuries that specialised in ore extraction and copper smelting. Steel and stone, particularly granite, remain central to Norway's exports.

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The materials that make up the Copper Mirror Series have been chosen to reflect and allude to this topographical heritage. "We wanted to reference Norway and Scandinavia, but without using pine everywhere and being too clichéd," says Hunting. "We wanted to reference it in a more subtle and unexpected way."

The mirrors are the first product that Hunting & Narud has created. Hunting trained in furniture design at the Danmarks Designskole in Copenhagen, while Narud is a product design graduate from London's Royal College of Art. But prior to Copper Mirror Series, the pair had worked primarily in exhibition design for clients including 100% Norway and London Fashion Week.

Yet the dramatic reflections cast across the walls of Gallery Libby Sellers by the mirrors, coupled with the highly sculptural proportions of the work, betray the studio's continued interest in spatiality.

"For a year we've been doing interiors and spaces, and this is our first product," says Hunting. "To some extent we've moved on from the more spatial designs that we've been doing and our background is furniture and product design. But there is always a mix between the two in our work. Our objects relate to our spaces and our spaces relate to our objects."

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Copper Mirror Series is on display at Gallery Libby Sellers on London's Berners Street. It runs until 5 October