



Photo by Marta Thisner

Anton Alvarez

The Threading Wrapping Machine is More Than
Just A Machine

by

Vanessa Power

more than a hole later down the line. It's usually about how often it's used, and how often you're supposed to be using it. Different things are supposed to be using it for. That's a pretty good premise for all artists of the world.

I love the Sleepwalkers collective, and generally the whole idea of what it stands for. How do you make your work working with that kind of influence?

Well, it's a collective, but it's not a collective. It's a group of people who are all in the same boat, and they're all in the same boat. It's a group of people who are all in the same boat, and they're all in the same boat. It's a group of people who are all in the same boat, and they're all in the same boat.

Can you describe your work as a collective?

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Thank you for that. I'm not sure I can do that.

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Design is often overlooked in the contemporary art world, in favour of the visual arts. Anton Alvarez, 33, is about to get you thinking differently.

Anton Alvarez, has had a busy few months with exhibitions in Switzerland, Belgium and London. I work my charm and squeeze in an interview during his exhibition 'Wrappers Delight' at Gallery Libby Sellers.

Unlike majority of our Avenir profiles, he has received numerous amount of media coverage, so he is immediately professional and polite, sitting patiently at the table with his glass of orange as I shuffle around with my rather ancient dictaphone.

After moments of silence, he pities me "Does it work? He asks.

Of course it works but I nod and smile, answering back "not as well as your thread wrapping machine"

The Swedish born designer, has made quite a stir with his Threading Machine. What's that's you ask? Simple, a machine that threads things - that's exactly what I thought until I saw the work that Anton had created with this new invention. The open white space at Gallery Libby Sellers came to life with multi-coloured lamps and stools that looked too precious to seat on. It was like a tropical safari, with refined with sophistication and elegance.

The process of the Thread Wrapping Machine is really straight forward, its just thread and glue. Alvarez uses this technique to create furniture without the use of nails, or screws. He jazzes this up with vibrant colours, a refreshing and innovative technique. Admittedly, the clever designer has made furniture look cool and simple, but just how practical is it?

"I have a stool myself which I use everyday and I also gave one to my girlfriend. The joints are very strong."

The thread is covered in glue as it skilfully wraps around the carefully carved wood. Up until this point I marvelled at the young lady who threads my eyebrows into shape, often asking how thread can



The Thread Wrapping Machine

be used in such a unique way. That was of course until I saw his exhibition and had the pleasure of speaking with the genius behind this invention.

His furniture is colourful, almost as colourful as his outfit today, its easy to believe that he was once a graffiti artist.

"The very first thing I did was graffiti, that was my initial introduction but I've also done other things such as cabinet making, architecture and now design. The Thread wrapping Machine is a combination of my past because there is a little bit of everything in there. When I analyse it, I see traces of my past."

The use of vibrant colours mixed together, creating something visually pleasing is probably down to his culture. "My father is from Chile, I've spent a couple of years there. Chilean is a part of me in some ways."

It was in London that Alvarez, began to reflect on his heritage. "When I was growing up in Sweden, I saw myself as Swede, my father didn't look like a Swedish dad but I didn't give it much thought until I moved to London and started to think about my background. In London if I introduced myself as Swede they think about the standard Swede, so I also say Chilean."

It is always an eye opener to see a young artist practising his craft while embracing his background and culture and

bring that into his work. In an era governed by what's 'trendy' and in 'vogue' right now, Alvarez pure passion for his art, is hugely inspiring.

"Everything inspires me, everything you do or I do. Music, I love Swedish music, electronic and techno but I go home too early for work so I don't party a lot."

For a young artist, Alvarez is lucky to have found his skill and be successful with it.

He is open to the idea of collaboration. "I very much like working independently, but I also enjoy collaborations."

He is currently exhibiting in Milan with a textile company from Denmark...

"They approached me and said they like what I do and asked if I would like to collaborate using my technique with their fabric - instead of using piece of wood, I am wrapping textiles using a textile paint that suits the fabric."

Thinking outside the box, and stepping out of his comfort zone, Alvarez is also very optimistic about collaborating with fashion designers. "I am very interested in collaborating with fashion designer, I have new ideas with fabric that I would like to explore, collaborating with a designer would be exciting. In terms of inspiration I would like to work with Issey Miyake."

He describes himself as 'a maker' and I am almost certain that he'll be making things for a very long time.