

Michael Anastassiades (UK)

Michael Anastassiades launched his studio in 1994 to explore contemporary notions of culture and aesthetics through a combination of product, furniture and environmental design. Positioned between fine art and design, his work aims to provoke dialogue, participation and interaction. He creates objects that are minimal, utilitarian and almost mundane, yet full of vitality one might not expect.

Anastassiades' work is featured in permanent collections at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, the Craft Council in London, the FRAC Centre in Orleans, France, and the MAK in Vienna. His solo exhibitions include Time and Again at the Geymüllerschloss/MAK in Vienna, To Be Perfectly Frank at Svenskt Tenn in Stockholm, Norfolk House Music room at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, Cyprus Presidency at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium. One of the most recent exhibitions explores what Anastassiades calls the "contemporary anxieties of modern Cyprus" entitled Reload the Current Page at the Point Centre for Contemporary Art in Nicosia, Cyprus, and the collection General Illuminations, as part of the exhibition Doings on Time and Light at Rodeo Gallery, Istanbul.

He has designed products with various leading manufacturers including FLOS, Lobmeyr and Svenskt Tenn. In 2007 he set up the company Michael Anastassiades Ltd to produce his signature pieces; a collection of lighting, furniture, jewellery, and tabletop objects.

The studio's philosophy is a continuous search for eclecticism, individuality, and timeless qualities in design. Michael Anastassiades trained as a civil engineer at London's Imperial College of Science Technology and Medicine before taking a masters degree in industrial design at the Royal College of Art. He lives and works in London.

Simon Hadjidimoff (Decathlon, FR)

Design Director Artengo (Decathlon group)

Chris Kabel (NL)

Chris Kabel combines an interest in hardcore science with an intuitive, artistic approach to design everyday objects. After studying biochemistry at the University of Amsterdam, Industrial Design at the Technical University Delft (both only for a short period), he continued at the Design Academy Eindhoven, where he graduated in 2001 in the department Man and Living. "After the Amsterdam and Delft experience I discovered in Eindhoven how I could base my work on artistic freedom. This was definitely the right place for me."

His former interests did not disappear, even in his graduation project the combination of clever technical solutions and aesthetics is striking. Ever since, researching, dissecting, analysing, dreaming, discovering by accident, testing new ideas in material experiments, and finally the search for simple, practical means to construe the products, have always been the starting point of his designs. He is not interested in a signature style, but instead remains close to the inspiration he draws from the materials and the techniques. As a result only the good viewer recognizes the "typical Kabel products" immediately, a characteristic that does not hide in the looks but in the underlying attitude towards design. "I like to be smart more than stylish". Equally important to Kabel is the context of his works: "I like to react to rather specific questions by clients that are looking for answers for a particular situation. It often turns out that my answers to those question can be applied to similar situations elsewhere".

Kabel was one of the Dutch designers who in the past decade won international fame with his designs. There are likenesses between him and his Dutch contemporaries, but in many ways he

differs from them. Whereas most dutch designers put an emphasis on demonstrating the traces of craftsmanship in the final products, on storytelling and poetry, Kabel focusses foremost on simplicity of form and smartness of technical construction. Aesthetics always follows suit in a natural way. Once all elements 'fit', both the visual and the technical, a subtle poetry allows the viewer to forget about the complex process that led to the result.

Kabel works with product design labels (Droog in Amsterdam) as well as with galleries (Galerie kreO in Paris) and cultural institutions (Portikus in Frankfurt am Main, Marres in Maastricht and Witte de With in Rotterdam). His work is in the collection of the MoMA in New York, museum Boijmans van Beuningen in Rotterdam and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam. Kabel teaches with intervals at ECAL in Lausanne and the Design Academy in Eindhoven.

Michael Young (UK)

Michael Young was born in 1966 in Sunderland, a small industrial city in the North-East of England. He graduated from Kingston University in 1992 and the following year, he founded the Michael Young Studio with the aim of providing exclusive, quality design services across an eclectic range of markets – from interiors to technology.

Michael Young quickly became one of the UK's most sought-after young designers and revered retailers and institutions such as the Conran shop and the Pompidou Museum began demanding his work. He became known in the industry as a sophisticated minimalist acclaimed for his elegant, pared-down aesthetic design, which was in direct opposition to the elaborate style dominating London at the time.

After nearly a decade working across the UK and Iceland, Michael was enticed to Asia by his passion for pioneering technology, and in 2006 set up a studio in Hong Kong. Today Michael Young Studio is considered to be one of the most exciting and formidable design companies operating in Asia, responsible for designing award-winning icons for its clients that last a lifetime and are presented in museums globally.

Over the past 20 years Michael Young has established himself as one of the leading international figures in his field continuing to push the boundaries of experimental design. The studio specialises in creating modern design through exploring the endless possibilities Asia's technological ingenuity provides. Propelled by the momentum created through collaboration with Chinese industrialists, the studio captures the strengthening ties between local industry and design, and exemplifies the skills of Asia's industrial innovation.

The result is work that transcends design by harnessing some of the highest and most innovative manufacturing skills to create Industrial Art. Michael Young's vibrant imagination and his continued ability to innovate and take a fresh approach to a seamless blending of East and West is what keeps his work relevant and increasingly in demand across all continents.

Jan Boelen

Jan Boelen (b. 1967, Genk, Belgium) is artistic director of Z33 House for Contemporary Art in Hasselt, Belgium, artistic director of Atelier LUMA, an experimental laboratory for design in Arles, France, and curator of the 4th Istanbul Design Biennial (22 Sep–4 Nov 2018) in Istanbul, Turkey. He also holds the position of the head of the Master department Social Design at Design Academy Eindhoven in the Netherlands.

Since the opening, Z33 House for Contemporary Art has been fashioning projects and exhibitions that

encourage the visitor to look at everyday objects in a novel manner. It is a unique laboratory for experiment and innovation and a meeting place with cutting-edge exhibitions of contemporary art and design. With Z33 Research, design and art research studios established in 2013, Boelen is transforming Z33 from exhibition-based to a research-based institution. At the initiative of Z33 and the Province of Limburg, Manifesta 9 took place in Belgium in 2012. As part of his role at Z33, Boelen curated the 24th Biennial of Design in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in 2014.

Boelen also serves on various boards and committees including the advisory board of the V&A Museum of Design Dundee in the UK and Creative Industries Fund in the Netherlands. Boelen holds a degree in product design from the Media and Design Academy (now the LUCA School of Arts) in Genk, Belgium.

Serge de Gheldere (Futureproofed, BE)

Serge de Gheldere is a design engineer with lots of personal energy, empathy, and intellectual curiosity. Serge is founder and CEO of Futureproofed.

Serge was one of the first presenters to be personally trained by Al Gore to educate the public about climate change. Over 300 presentations on, Serge has reached more than 20.000 people around the world - from France and the Netherlands to China, the United Arab Emirates and India.

Serge is also Executive Council Member of the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Efficiency Forum. This is the first joint initiative of an alliance formed between the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and Johnson Controls in July 2009. As a high-level, invitation-only annual gathering, the Forum sets out to be the premier event in Europe that promotes an energy efficiency ethic to drive action in the region.

Serge de Gheldere was guest professor at Group T University College. He advised a team of the Vehicle Design Summit consortium that collaborates with Tsinghua University in Beijing, TU Delft, MIT and many teams worldwide to develop a new 6-passenger, production-ready car with dramatically improved life cycle impact. Serge recently became the first alumnus director on Group T's board.

As a climate ambassador he performed at Pukkelpop in 2015 and 2016. It is said Rihanna was upset they scheduled a headliner like Serge together with her performance.

Giovanna Massoni (BE)

Born in Milan, living and working in Brussels since 20 years, Giovanna Massoni is an Italian art and design freelance journalist and independent design consultant.

Amongst her most significant assignments to date have been: Addict Creative Lab (an international multidisciplinary creative network) researcher and editor; EOS, environmental integrated communication agency's associate; Saint-Etienne International Design Biennial, as curator of Belgian design exhibitions in 2006-2008-2010 (France); DesignSingapore Council exhibition project manager for Italy in the frame of the Milan Design Week 2008.

In 2009 and 2011, she has been design consultant for EESC (European Economic and Social Committee) for the first and second edition of the Sustainable Design Award.

Since 2006, she collaborates with Belgian federal institutions for the organization, communication and curatorship of collective exhibitions during the Milan Design Week (a.o. "Perspectives" and "The Toolbox" both presented at the Triennale di Milano). Amongst her major exhibition projects: "Fighting the Box - 20 Belgian designers/20 stories behind the products", co-curated with Dieter Van Den Storm, Centrale électrique, Brussels (BE); "Multiple Plan – Design Crossroads in Belgium", co-curated

with Alok Nandi, red dot design museum, Essen (DE); "La Belgique des autres", 13 Belgian designers of foreign origins, Saint-Etienne Design Biennial (FR) and CIVA-Espace Architecture La Cambre Horta, Brussels (BE). Together with Susanna Campogrande she co-curated "The Matter of Clouds" at the MuBE in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and in Paris at Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles. In 2015 she has curated "Serial Beauty" in collaboration with Dieter Van Den Storm for the International Design Biennial of Saint-Etienne. Since September 2011, she's artistic director RECIPROCITY design liege, the International Triennial of Design for Social Innovation of Liège (BE).

Ronald Bastiaens (BE)

Experienced Lecturer in Industrial product design, Prototyping, Design for Sustainability, Design methods, Materials and Manufacturing.

Teamlead for the Howest Industrial Design Center's teaching, service en research staff.

Researchfellow in the projects Protolab, Protolight, Design for Impact, Innowiz, myMachine and Pro-Fit.