

About Nicolette de Waart , founder Design by nico

Nicolette de Waart is a Dutch designer and sculptor.

She draws inspiration from the countries where she has lived, including Singapore and the UK.

Her previous furniture includes her Totem metal bookshelves, CorianSolid Oak desk and daybed. Her multi-award winning modular Leaf Seat poufs have been used in projects for numerous leading companies like Google Head office in Dublin, the fully circular National Lottery office in Amsterdam, the Accor Hotel group and in numerous interior design projects in New York, San Francisco and LA. The stool was also featured in the Missoni showroom London and she subsequently launched her Poppy Bloom Stools and Outdoor Leaf Seats.

Back in the Netherlands she decided next to design also to pick up her interest in sculpture and ceramics. In Singapore she learned various techniques in ceramics from a professional ceramist. In Amsterdam she followed lessons with a renowned sculpturist. Nicolette challenged herself with different techniques like head sculptures, her own hand, small accessories before setting a step into free work. With her project 'Infinity Knots' she exhibited at the Venice Design Biennale 2023 and imminently at the Focus Art Fair at the SAATCHI Gallery in London (Oct '23).

About her work

She is constantly invigorated by the colours, materials, sights and sounds of places she visits around the world – particularly Asia – and loves to try out different materials and techniques in her work. Her pieces are functional and tactile, and respond flexibly to the needs of modern dwelling spaces.

“My aim is to create designs and products that are as hard wearing as they are beautiful to look at,” she says. “Above all, I want them to stand the test of time.”

Aims and inspiration

Nicolette tries to balance the form of her furniture with its function, “playing” with the shapes she works with, but keeping the overall design as pure and simple as possible.

For her modular work she fashions very simple, interlocking forms, sometimes inspired by the shapes found in nature, aiming to create flexible designs where the elements can be combined in an infinite number of ways.

Working method

Once the idea for a design takes shape, Nicolette moves from sketches and studio samples to discuss the work with the craftsmen who will fashion it. She looks forward to this dialogue, where designer and craftsmen cooperate, sharing their knowledge and techniques, challenging each other to perfect the finished product.

The Leaf Seat saw her intensively studying petals and leaves before working out the perfect tessellation through sketches, drawings and models. Similarly, her Modular Cast Candlesticks involved many sketches to create a satisfying shape that function as a puzzle, enabling you to create an endless, complex assembly.

Sustainability and sourcing

Design by nico products are handmade in collaboration with highly qualified craftsmen, and combine traditional techniques and materials with new technologies and forms, responding to our modern age and housing needs.

She is committed to using sustainable materials in her work and is involved in every stage of the production process, ensuring that the end result always meets her exacting standards.

Work

2023 Focus Art Fair at SAATCHI Gallery
2023 Venice Design Biennale
2022 Glue Design Amsterdam
2019 Dutch television program 'Binnenstebuiten'
2018 Maison & Objet Paris
2018 Maison & Objet Trends
2018 Clerkenwell Design festival
2017 100% Design London
2017 ICFF in New York
2017 Ventura XV in Milan
2017 Pop Up Gallery London, Kings Road
2017 Guest lecturer art class at Harrodian school London
2016 Paris Design week
2016 London Design week
2016 Galerie Joseph Paris, group exhibition
2015 Designjunction at London Design week
2015 Designersblock in Milan
2015 EDIT by Designjunction in Milan
2014 Tent London exhibition
2014 Ventura Hive exhibition in Milan
2014 EDIT by Designjunction exhibition in Milan
2013 Tent London exhibition
2013 OYO@newdesigners exhibition London group exhibition
2011 Founding Design by Nico London
2009 Founding Design Doctors in Singapore
2007 Design of Eigen Huis & Interieur stand Woonbeurs collab with studio Paul Linse
1996 Founding company De Stijlfabriek Amsterdam

Awards

2018 German Design Award WINNER of the Excellent Product Design Award.
2017 Design Guild Mark Award UK
2014 Golden Bridge Award: Shortlisted 2nd place by NBCC (Netherlands British Chamber of Commerce) in the category 'Best New Small and Middle Companies 2014'
2014 WINawards 2014 Long listed in the category furniture

Publications

2018 German Design award catalogue
2017 Interview at Business News Radio BNR about setting up a design business abroad
Elle Decoration UK March
Liganova Trend Report Milan
Architectural Digest Italy Spring
Insider Design magazine UK April
Design Guild Mark magazine
Mix interiors UK May
Home & Art Turkey
2016 Living etc Febr
Elle Decoration NL Feb/March

- Het Parool bijlage March
- Elle Decoration France April
- 2015 Vogue UK Jan
- Habitar Colombian magazine Feb
- 2014 Elle Decor Italia Jan
- Feeling /wonen Jan
- Today's Living Febr
- Yatzer April
- Interview Archiproducts at Fuorisalone April
- DOMUS May
- Icon May
- 2013 On Office
- Evening Standard June
- Dezeen magazine July
- Elsevier March
- Places of Spirit Home Style Art Germany
- Cover magazine Summer
- Elle Decoration NL September
- Livingetc October
- Volkskrant Nov
- 2011 Icon September
- 2010 Dwell June
- Elle Decoration NL
- World of interiors September
- Elle Decoration China October
- 2009 Living June
- Inside Out May/June
- Elle Decoration China August
- Elle Wonen Nov
- 2008 Elle Wonen
- VT Wonen
- 2007 Eigen Huis & Interieur Dec

Books

- Easy Living Hotze Eisma en Reini Smit
- Woon als in VT Wonen
- 100% wonen