



**THOUGHT  
FOR  
HUMANS.**

**Press Kit**

**Salone del Mobile.Milano 2025  
First Insights**

13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

 Salone del Mobile.Milano

## Robert Wilson to open the 2025 edition of the Salone del Mobile, illuminating Michelangelo's Pietà Rondanini

*The Salone del Mobile has announced the first major event in its 2025 Cultural Programme. "Mother", a 'total work' by Robert Wilson, in collaboration with the Municipality of Milan | Culture, at the Museo Pietà Rondanini – Castello Sforzesco. A tribute to art, to the city, to light, a powerful thread running through the first previews of the April edition.*

**The Salone is already sold out** (the complete list of exhibitors will be published shortly), with **four major site-specific projects entrusted to an equal number of great interpreters of the contemporary**, the launch of **the first Euroluce International Lighting Forum**, a **new cycle of Talks and Round Tables** for sharing visions on one hand, and new business opportunities on the other. Plus a new communication campaign, entrusted to **Dentsu Creative Italy: "Thought for Humans."** In other words, precisely what design should be.

These are the first previews of the Salone, the 63<sup>rd</sup> edition of which, in the year of the **Euroluce** biennial, will be opened by **Robert Wilson's "Mother"**, a 'total work' dedicated to Michelangelo's masterpiece, recognised along with Leonardo's Last Supper, as the most iconic work of art in Milan. An event that once again testifies to the **Salone's commitment to promoting a cultural programme of international scope, taking in both the city and the trade fair, to stimulate that multidisciplinary dialogue** that, year after year, has helped consolidate the role of the Salone as a **platform for business and reflection on the world of design.**

**"Mother" is the first chapter of the programme for this Euroluce year:** a homage to Michelangelo's unfinished work 'staged' at the **Museo della Pietà – Castello Sforzesco** – in a dramaturgical dialogue with **Stabat Mater**, the musical masterpiece by the Estonian composer **Arvo Pärt**. A 'vision' of rare intensity, thanks to the eye of an artist famous all over the world for his mastery in the use of light in his works, in which sound, images and movement merge to create a creative, inimitable and rigorous alphabet.

**Promoted in collaboration with the Municipality of Milan | Culture, "Mother" is not only an event by the Salone for the Salone but a homage to the city (the installation will remain open until 18<sup>th</sup> May):** an ideal bridge between Milan and the world, as well as an opportunity to create **new synergies with Milan Art Week**, which precedes Design Week by a few days with an increasingly strong Miart.

The collaboration with Robert Wilson will see the Salone del Mobile once again alongside **La Scala** for the opening night of the 63<sup>rd</sup> edition, with Wilson curating **THE NIGHT BEFORE. OBJECT CHAIRS OPERA**, with the **Teatro alla Scala Orchestra, conducted by Michele Spotti.**

That's not all. Robert Wilson is also among the first announced protagonists of **The Euroluce International Lighting Forum:** two days (**10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> April**) of conferences, round tables and workshops, designed to complete the Euroluce experience with an open discussion on key issues, paradigms and new visions of lighting, thanks to the contribution of an international panel of lighting designers, architects, scientists, and set designers, whose speakers will include – among others – **DRIFT, A.J. Weissbard, Marjan van Aubel, and Kaoru Mende.**

The subtle thread running through these early previews is the new 2025 communication campaign, **"Thought for Humans."**, entrusted to **Dentsu Creative Italy.** After experimenting with the new frontiers of Artificial Intelligence in 2024, the New York-based photographer **Bill Durgin**, who has always been engaged in visual research that **focuses on the human body, space and matter** – and light, the

measure of all things – will be training his gaze on the Salone alongside us over the coming months. In a snapshot: the deepest sense of designing worlds, places, businesses, products, and experiences.

**Maria Porro, President of the Salone del Mobile.Milano**, had this to say: *“We have always thought of the Salone as a fundamental tool for offering opportunities for growth and development to our industry, creating intercultural dialogues, bringing disciplines closer together, illuminating Milan. When planning the 2025 edition of the trade fair, we once again carefully assessed which themes and contents might ignite a spark to further boost a sector which, thanks to the international powers of attraction of the Salone, transforms Milan into the World Capital of Design every year. Imagination has always driven change. This is why, once again this year, the Salone has decided to reinvest the results of a record-breaking 2024 edition in a cultural programme of the highest order, part of which we are excitedly anticipating today – ‘Mother’, a project of rare intensity that sees us working alongside Robert Wilson once again.”*

**Ms Porro** continued: *“With the same emotion, I invite you to browse through Universo Satellite, an encyclopaedic tribute to the 25 years of SaloneSatellite, the Salone’s hub for the under-35s: an immense documentary work, the starting point for imagining a future in which intergenerational dialogue between young talents and companies becomes the key to achieving ever greater challenges in terms of creativity and innovation. These are the same challenges taken up by the exhibitors of Salone 2025, which enable us to confirm already that, despite the complexity of the global context, April’s edition will be a sold-out one, thanks to the Salone’s commitment to the constant search for and selection of new companies in Italy and around the world and new opportunities for relations with established and emerging markets. A commitment that in 2024 saw the percentage of foreign professionals visiting the Salone increase to 65.3%.”*

Promoting the April event to the target professionals, the Salone will continue its international **“Salone, Milan and beyond”** tour. After the big events in **New York, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Miami**, in January it will be the turn of **North America and Canada**. While the European tour – which has already seen a preview in Munich – will touch down in **Copenhagen, Paris, London and Madrid**. This international journey will continue to provide an opportunity to reflect on the challenges facing the world of design and future home living, thanks to the involvement of special guests who will valorise the culture of design as told and interpreted by the Salone.

**Claudio Feltrin, President of FederlegnoArredo**, commented: *“2024 is drawing to a close and, we have to admit, we could never have predicted at the start of the year just how complex it would turn out to be. The companies are confident of a small shot in the arm in the final part of the year, which could be the prelude to a slow recovery in 2025. A recovery in which exports play a huge part: the Salone del Mobile.Milano will once again be the best opportunity to strengthen and expand the presence of our companies on the international markets. We are ready to ‘narrate’ our products, the result of a structured supply chain that, thanks to the territories of which it is an expression, and to research in innovation and sustainability, constitutes a unique mix. Decreeing the success of a business system and confirming how strategic and indispensable it is for our companies to invest in the Salone del Mobile. The only business-focused showcase able to speak to the world.”*

**63<sup>rd</sup> Salone del Mobile.Milano**

8<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Rho Fiera Milano

# Robert Wilson. Mother



Salone del Mobile.Milano

## Robert Wilson. Mother. With music by Arvo Pärt A homage to the Salone del Mobile.Milano at Euroluce 2025

**Robert Wilson**, a master of the creative use of light, will be the first of the guests invited by the Salone del Mobile 2025 to present an extraordinarily powerful project in April, created **in collaboration with the Municipality of Milan | Culture, at the Museo Pietà Rondanini – Castello Sforzesco**. After his initial participation in the visionary “Rooms and Secrets” project curated by Achille Bonito Oliva at the Rotonda della Besana (2000), Wilson furthered his collaboration with the Salone with “Imagining Prometheus” at the Palazzo della Ragione (2003), “Everyone to the table!” at the Gallery of Modern Art and “Perchance to Dream” with Roberto Bolle in New York (2010). Now, the renowned American artist, known for his works of great aesthetic and emotional impact, that integrate dance, painting, design, movement, light, sculpture, music and acting, is back in Milan to design his own “vision” of Michelangelo’s masterpiece, the **Pietà Rondanini**, part of the heritage of the city of Milan. While **fully respecting the installation designed in 2015 by Michele De Lucchi in the Spanish Hospital** – beneath the original frescoed decorations – **Robert Wilson** will create his own vision of Michelangelo’s work, which he has chosen to name “**Mother**”, underscoring the universal and timeless value of Michelangelo’s masterpiece in a dramaturgical dialogue with the medieval prayer “**Stabat Mater**”, in the vocal and instrumental version by the Estonian composer **Arvo Pärt**.

*“I intend to create my own vision of Michelangelo’s masterpiece, which remained unfinished at the time of his death, divided between a feeling of reverential awe and one of admiring wonder,” said **Robert Wilson**. “However, a feeling of serenity, of being at peace with oneself even faced with the tragedy of death, will prevail. Religion doesn’t come into it, in my case. It’s a universal image, a spiritual experience that moves something deeper within ourselves that needs no explanation.”*

*“Robert Wilson sees the stage, a piece of paper, a building, the façade of a cathedral, or a screen as indistinguishable canvases on which to paint light,” said **Franco Laera, curator of the project**. “Light for Wilson is not ornament to what we are looking at, it’s what really enables us to see. Light guides our gaze, like yeast to arouse emotion.”*

*“In the year of Euroluce, launching the Salone del Mobile with Robert Wilson is a dream come true,” said **Maria Porro, President of the Salone del Mobile.Milano**. “An experience that will allow the viewer great freedom of interpretation, triggering deep and personal reflection thanks to a unique experience, encompassing light and shadow, silence and sound, presence and absence. A work that defies conventions and redefines the very concept of performance. Exactly like the power of Michelangelo’s “unfinished” work, which has opened the way for a new vision of the sculpture. I should therefore like to thank Robert Wilson for accepting our invitation, Franco Laera for making a dream come true, the Municipality of Milan | Culture and the Museo della Pietà – Castello Sforzesco for collaborating in the realisation of a project that marks a new step in the building of increasingly solid synergies between the Salone del Mobile and the city’s cultural institutions.”*

“Mother” will take the form of a constantly **repeating sequence of music, lights and images lasting 30 minutes**, open to the public by appointment at scheduled times. The installation, with **live performances of the “Stabat Mater” until 13<sup>th</sup> April** – will be **open for visits until 18<sup>th</sup> May**, enabling residents to book appointments outside Milan Design Week.

### **Robert Wilson. Mother**

An event of the Salone del Mobile.Milano

Project curated by Franco Laera

Project and production CHANGE PERFORMING ARTS

# The Euroluce International Lighting Forum



Salone del Mobile.Milano

## The Euroluce International Lighting Forum

### The Euroluce Forum makes its debut: a new chapter for the art of light

Two days packed with events, including conferences, round tables and workshops, numerous international guests and a space created ad hoc in the Euroluce exhibition area: **the first Euroluce International Lighting Forum will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025** as part of **Euroluce's evolutionary path**, launched at the 2023 edition, and geared to creating a contemporary cultural, educational and stimulating platform that will complement the commercial offer.

An experience that will promote the **culture of light**, transcending its merely practical function to transform it into an element of qualitative and human value capable of **putting the person at the centre of design, even of the trade fair event**. The topic of light will be addressed from multiple perspectives: in its technological potential and through a reflection on its role as an **expressive and innovative language**. An integrated vision that aims to **redefine lighting paradigms**, proposing avant-garde concepts that will guide the design of future luminaires.

The Forum will bring together an international **panel of lighting designers, architects, creatives, and lighting professionals**, poised to confront each other on issues of great relevance. The first confirmed names include **Robert Wilson**, the world-renowned theatre and visual artist, known for his innovative approach that combines light, movement, sound and text in works charged with emotion and aesthetic power; **DRIFT**, an art and design collective that explores the boundary between art, technology and nature, creating spectacular and poetic installations; **A.J. Weissbard**, a visionary lighting designer and multifaceted artist of international renown specialising in the innovative use of light and space; the Netherlands-based leader in solar design for a sustainable, innovative and conscious future, **Marjan van Aubel**; and **Kaoru Mende**, the renowned Japanese lighting designer known for his work in architectural, urban and landscape lighting and his approach combining aesthetics, functionality and sustainability.

A comprehensive programme will provide an opportunity to explore **key issues such as the interaction between light and architecture, and light and wellbeing**, through a **multidisciplinary design approach**. At each future edition, specific aspects of lighting design will be addressed, providing inspiration and practical tools to create more sustainable and inclusive spaces.

**Carlo Urbinati, President of FederlegnoArredo's Assoluce, had this to say:** *"The interaction between light, architecture and wellbeing in an integrated and multidisciplinary design approach, in which light not only makes things appear but creates atmospheres and depth and becomes an interpreter of spaces. These are the assumptions that, as FederlegnoArredo's Assoluce, drove us to organise a dedicated international forum, The Euroluce International Lighting Forum, during the week of the Salone. I should therefore like to thank the Salone del Mobile.Milano for sharing the idea with the association, demonstrating yet again that our trade fair is not just the leading event at international level but, uniquely in the world, is the home of entrepreneurs committed to designing the future of the industry they represent. Lighting represents an industry that is particularly dedicated to exports (80% according to the final figures for 2023, the highest result of all the industry sectors). The presence of lighting companies at the Salone del Mobile.Milano is therefore strategic, and the Euroluce International Lighting Forum will be an opportunity for us to commune with designers, architects and lighting designers - fundamental interlocutors for building the future of the industry."*

#### The Euroluce International Lighting Forum

Salone del Mobile.Milano / Euroluce

10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025, Rho Fiera Milano

# Thought for Humans.



Salone del Mobile.Milano



## Thought for Humans.

### The Salone del Mobile.Milano 2025 Communication Campaign

The new “Thought for Humans.” communication campaign for the 63<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Salone del Mobile.Milano, devised by **Dentsu Creative Italy**, **takes us back to the origins of design**, reminding us that its main expression and dimension is the fact that it was made by and for people: every project responds to the needs, the values and the experiences of human beings. In fact, everything we see, touch and experience at the Salone is design rooted in the everyday, which aims to improve quality of life, sublimating the relationship between body, matter and space.

Amplifying and driving this vision is the concept of **connected intelligences**, which **Dentsu Creative Italy** explored when designing the campaign, underscoring the fact that design is never the fruit of a single mind, but the result of a dialogue between different **skills, perspectives, and disciplines**. The **interconnections between people, technologies and materials** generate a **collective creativity**, capable of dealing more effectively with the challenges of the present and the future. “Thought for Humans.” can be seen as the **concrete result of connected intelligences**. Design ‘for humans’ could not exist without a collaborative network that brings together **multidisciplinary skills, innovative materials, and sustainable technologies**. Equally, the principle of connected intelligences makes sense given that human beings are the focal point around which all these interactions revolve.

If “Thought for Humans.” **represents the ‘why’ of design** – a goal centred on human beings and the improvement of their life experiences – **connected intelligences are the ‘how’**: the way in which this goal is achieved, harnessing the power of **collaboration, multidisciplinary, and innovation to create meaningful and sustainable solutions**.

The **involvement of a photographer**, specifically a visual artist such as **Bill Durgin**, known for his ability to **deconstruct and reinterpret the body**, represents an **innovative choice** for the Salone del Mobile.Milano, marking a turning point in the Salone’s communication approach. This decision fits perfectly into the dialogue between the concepts of ‘Thought for Humans.’ and ‘**Connected Intelligences**’, as photography is a tool capable of **creating immediate emotional connections**. Through Bill Durgin’s shots, the campaign does not merely present design as an object or function, but **explores its deeper essence: its relationship with human beings**. Durgin shows how **wood, metal, fabric, and bioplastics merge with the human skin**, making the message of **sustainability, harmony, and connection** tangible. Photography also gives visual form to the **concept of connected intelligences**: the images show how **human and material intelligence can come together in a synergetic dialogue**, reflecting the very essence of contemporary design.

Photography, **as a universal language**, makes the campaign message immediately comprehensible to a global audience. Through photographic images, the Salone communicates values that transcend language and cultural barriers, making its vision accessible and attractive to all. This new approach underlines how the Salone continues to be a **cultural platform capable of innovating, connecting and looking to the future**.

**Bill Durgin said:** “The photographic work for this project was constructed with attention to detail, trying to capture the essence of the relationship between body, materials and light. After years of physical distance, the new campaign celebrates a return to touch, bringing attention back to the connection between the human body and design.” The choice of materials used – **wood, metal, fabric and bioplastic** – is not random, but profoundly linked to the values of the Salone del Mobile. These

materials, symbols of **sustainability and innovation**, have been chosen also to clearly convey this message.

**Luca Adornato, Director of Marketing and Communication at the Salone del Mobile.Milano** commented: *"With this campaign we have chosen to take a further step along the communication path we have undertaken in recent years. After last year's project involving Artificial Intelligence, in which we explored and represented in the abstract the relationships with our community, this year we have embraced photography: a universal and timeless language, capable of conveying concreteness and making our message immediately comprehensible at global level. Through photographic images, the Salone communicates and illustrates the value of the connection between man and matter, making it accessible and attractive to all. This new approach underlines how the Salone continues to be a platform capable of innovating, connecting, and looking to the future. We wanted to celebrate the beauty of matter and its ability to merge with the human body, underlining how crucial it is for contemporary design to be sustainable and projected, responsibly, towards a future that is as ethical as possible."*

**Bill Durgin** added: *"Thought for Humans is exactly what great design should be. As human beings, we are confronted by design every day. Everything around us is designed by someone for someone. Great design is not only aesthetically pleasing, it brings joy to our daily interactions, to moving through spaces, making breakfast, working or sitting around a table with family. Designing furniture, I learnt how designers study the human body, our movements, our abilities, our postures, all to make life easier. Design is rooted in the human anatomy and feeds on the continuous interaction with it."*

**Concludes Rigo Chief, Strategy Officer of Dentsu Creative Italy:** *"Being able to support and work with the Salone del Mobile has been a real honour. Design plays a central role in our society and in our lives. It is a deep, indissoluble connection that we wanted to celebrate with a simple, immediate concept and communication, capable of reminding everybody of its importance."*

# Universo Satellite



Salone del Mobile.Milano

## Universo Satellite.

### 25 anni di / years of SaloneSatellite

**Published by Corraini and edited by Beppe Finessi, “Universo Satellite. 25 anni / years of SaloneSatellite”** is a book celebrating the richness, complexity, and formidable contribution that this event, founded and curated by **Marva Griffin Wilshire**, has brought to the Italian and international design scene. The book is a tribute to a quarter of a century of ideas, encounters and innovations that have marked the contemporary design landscape and offers a chronological narrative from 1998 to 2024. Through **more than 1,200 images, unpublished documents, and testimonies**, it restores the complexity and richness of a project that was born to give voice to young creatives and has become over time a global reference point for the world of design. The book not only documents the works on display, but also discusses the context in which they came into being, thus becoming a ‘magic box’ capable of going beyond mere cataloguing to become a Wunderkammer of contemporary design.

**Marva Griffin Wilshire looked back:** *“In the autumn of 1997, Cosmit asked me to bring the new designers who had wanted to be there for so long ‘inside’ the Salone del Mobile. The request from Manlio Armellini, Cosmit’s CEO, a few days after our interview was ‘Marva, we have the space, see what you can do to bring young people inside the Salone del Mobile.’ So I went back to my studio, I thought about it a lot, I did personal checks by talking to designers and architects, both Italian and foreign, I called colleagues and ex-colleagues from the press, and I realised that something valid and interesting could come out of it. So, three days later, I took my project to Cosmit. We then had a mini-press conference and took it from there ...”*

**Maria Porro commented:** *“Universo Satellite is a book rather like a magic box, that goes beyond the idea of cataloguing and classification. It is a snapshot of a laboratory projected into the future, of which as a spectator I have never missed an appointment. Thanks to monumental archival work, Universo Satellite is SaloneSatellite telling its story for what it has always been – behind the scenes, in the spotlight: a kaleidoscope of experiences, faces, encounters, projects born from an ever-growing and dialectic network of young creatives, international schools and universities, entrepreneurs, journalists, critics.”*

**Beppe Finessi concluded:** *“We have always called it ‘Satellite’, but over time it has become a true ‘Universe’. Since it opened in 1998, SaloneSatellite has been the place for creativity par excellence. SaloneSatellite is a story built around an unbeatable recipe, orchestrated by an exceptional curator, Marva Griffin Wilshire, who was invited by Manlio Armellini to put together a project to welcome young designers into a space dedicated to them within the pavilions of the Salone del Mobile. Before SaloneSatellite, young people and young designers found it hard to enter into a dialogue with entrepreneurs. With the advent of SaloneSatellite, they have found a place where they can gain experience, to add knowledge to their own education.”*

Outstanding contributions include a testimony by **Paola Antonelli, Senior Curator of Architecture & Design at the Museum of Modern Art in New York**, a dialogue/interview between **Marva Griffin Wilshire and Hans-Ulrich Obrist**, the most influential curator on the contemporary intellectual scene, and a tribute by **Nendo**. The book is accompanied by an extensive iconography. The book design is by studio òbelo.

### Universo Satellite. 25 anni di / years of SaloneSatellite

Edited by Beppe Finessi

752 pages, more than 1,200 images

Bilingual Italian / English edition

# Biographies



Salone del Mobile.Milano

## Biographies

### **Maria Porro**

#### **President Salone del Mobile.Milano**

Maria Porro, born in Como in 1983, has been President of Assarredo since being unanimously elected in September 2020, and is the first woman to take on this role. She joined the Board of Directors of Assarredo in 2017 and the General Council of FederlegnoArredo in 2019. She is Director of Marketing and Communication at Porro S.p.A., an old-established Italian design brand, set up by her greatgrandfather Giulio in 1925. She joined the company permanently in 2014, with responsibility for bolstering the company's international trade network and strengthening its communication strategies, before taking on her current role, with sustainable development very much to the forefront. She graduated cum laude in Set Design from the Brera Academy of Fine Arts, and worked in theatre, art and large events as a designer, coordinator and curator. She has always maintained strong ties to the family firm and the design world, collaborating with her father Lorenzo Porro and with the Lissoni Associati studio in particular, in the field of stylistic research and new product development, and personally overseeing the company's presentations at the Salone del Mobile. Starting from July 2021 she has become President of Salone del Mobile.Milano.

### **Claudio Feltrin**

#### **President FederlegnoArredo**

Claudio Feltrin has been the President of FederlegnoArredo since October 2020 and Vice President of Federlegno Arredo Eventi S.p.A. since March 2021. In 2014, he joined the Board of Directors of Assarredo and became its President in 2017, a position he left upon his election to lead the Federation for the 2020-2024 quadrennium. In March 2023, he was reconfirmed in his position until 2026. Claudio Feltrin is also the President of Arper S.p.A., an Italian design company that creates seating, tables, and furniture accessories for public spaces, workplaces, and homes. The company was founded in 1989 by his father Luigi and his brother Mauro.

### **Carlo Urbinati**

#### **President Assoluce, FederlegnoArredo**

Carlo Urbinati joined the board of FederlegnoArredo's Assoluce in 2017 as Vice President, and was elected President in 2020. Together with the Presidential Council of Assoluce, he collaborated with the Salone del Mobile.Milano to renew the mission and format of Euroluce, in order for the event to showcase every segment of the lighting industry and to attract all lighting specialists. President Urbinati brings to Assoluce the vast experience he has gained as an entrepreneur, starting in 1981 when he arrived in Venice to manage glass lighting orders for a new company from the small island of Murano: Foscarini. From 1983, with Alessandro Vecchiato, he designed and developed the brand's lamp range; in 1988, again with Vecchiato, he took over Foscarini and was its President until he became sole shareholder in 2014.

### **Marva Griffin Wilshire**

#### **Curator and Founder of SaloneSatellite**

#### **Ambassador of International Relations Salone del Mobile.Milano**

Marva Griffin Wilshire was born in Venezuela and Milan became her adopted city when she started working in the design and furnishing sector. She is currently the International Relations Ambassador for the Salone del Mobile.Milano and a Visiting Professor at Tongji University, College of Design and Innovation (D&I), Shanghai, China. She set up SaloneSatellite in 1998, which netted the Golden Compass Lifetime Award XXIII in May 2014. She was awarded the Ambrogino d'Oro in 2017, an

Honorary Masters Degree in Design from Milan Polytechnic University in 2021 and, in 2024, an Honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts from the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, USA. She has been a member of the Philip Johnson Architecture & Design Committee of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York since 2001. She has been a global Italian Design Ambassador since 2016.

## Robert Wilson

Born in Waco, Texas, Wilson is one of the world's leading theatre and visual artists. His works unconventionally integrate a wide variety of artistic media, including dance, movement, light, sculpture, music and text. His images are aesthetically striking and emotionally charged, and his productions have earned worldwide public and critical acclaim. After studying at the University of Texas and the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, Wilson set up The Byrd Hoffman School of Byrds community in New York in the mid-1960s with which he produced his early works, including *Deafman Glance* (1970) and *A Letter for Queen Victoria* (1974-1975). He co-created the opera *Einstein on the Beach* (1976) with Philip Glass. Wilson's artistic collaborators include many writers and musicians such as Heiner Müller, Tom Waits, Susan Sontag, Laurie Anderson, William Burroughs, Lou Reed, Jessye Norman and Anna Calvi. He has also left his mark on masterpieces such as Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape*, Brecht/Weill's *Threepenny Opera*, Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande*, Goethe's *Faust*, Homer's *Odyssey*, Jean de la Fontaine's *Fables*, Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Verdi's *La Traviata* and Sophocles' *Oedipus*. Wilson's drawings, paintings and sculptures have been exhibited all over the world in hundreds of solo and group shows, and his work is held in private collections and museums the world over. He has also been the recipient of numerous awards for excellence, including a Pulitzer Prize nomination, two Ubu Awards, the Venice Biennale Golden Lion award, and the Olivier Award. Wilson has been made a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, as well as the German Academy of Arts, and has been awarded eight honorary degrees. France named him a Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters (2003) and an Officer of the Legion of Honour (2014); Germany awarded him the Cross of the Order of Merit (2014).

## Arvo Pärt

Arvo Pärt born on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1935 in Paide, Estonia, is one of the world's composers whose creative oeuvre has significantly changed the way we understand the nature of music. In 1976 Pärt came up with a new and highly original musical language that he called *tintinnabuli* (tintinnabulum is Latin for 'little bell'), which reached a wide audience of different listeners and has defined his work to this day. There is no school of composition that follows Pärt, nor does he teach; however, much of contemporary music has been influenced by his tintinnabuli compositions. After studying in Heino Eller's composition class at the Tallinn State Conservatory, he worked as a sound engineer for Estonian Radio. Since the late 1960s, Pärt has been an independent composer. Both the avant-garde spirit of Pärt's early works and the sacred aspect of the music he composed in the 1970s sparked controversial reviews and clashes with Soviet officials. Arvo Pärt and his family were forced to emigrate in 1980, first to Vienna and then to Berlin, where they remained for almost 30 years. Since then, his music has been performed and recorded by the top orchestras and performers of our time. Pärt returned to Estonia in 2010, where he now lives. The search for his own musical voice triggered a creative crisis that endured for eight years. During this period, he joined the Orthodox Church and studied Gregorian chant, the School of Notre Dame and classical vocal polyphony. His first tintinnabuli piece, *Für Alina*, for piano (1976), was soon followed by works such as *Cantus in Memory Benjamin Britten* (1977), *Fratres* (1977), *Tabula Rasa* (1977) and *Spiegel im Spiegel* (1978). Robert Wilson and Arvo Pärt collaborated on the opera *Adam's Passion* performed in Tallinn in 2015, in Berlin in 2018 and at the Teatro dell'Opera in Rome in 2023.

## Bill Durgin

Known for his unique work with the human figure, Bill Durgin roots his images in the historical aspects of making photographs while calling attention to the process of working in the studio. He was introduced to photography when making photograms in his mother's darkroom. Durgin received his BFA from Tufts University and The School of the Museum of Fine Arts in 1995 and his MFA from California College of the Arts in 2000, working under Larry Sultan. He is also an avid dancer. Durgin's work will be on view at Dutch Design Week, 19-27 October 2024 in Eindhoven, as part of the Body Project. His work has been displayed in galleries throughout the world including The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Guest Projects in London, SF Camerawork in California, Station independent projects in New York, Ego Gallery in Barcelona, and Klompching Gallery in Brooklyn. His work has been published in Acne Paper, Wallpaper\*, Surface, Paper, The New York Times, and Art News, among others.

## Beppe Finessi

Finessi (1966) has earned a PhD and is an architect, teacher (associate professor at the Design School of Milan's Polytechnic, where he teaches Design and the arts), critic (he was editor of *Abitare* magazine under Italo Lupi) and researcher (he has curated exhibitions and publications dedicated to masters such as Bruno Munari, Achille Castiglioni, Corrado Levi, Vico Magistretti, Angelo Mangiarotti, Pio Manzù and Alessandro Mendini). In 2010, he founded and was editor-in-chief of *Inventario*, an editorial project that won him the Compasso d'Oro. He curated "Italian Design beyond the Crisis", seventh edition of the Triennale Design Museum (2014), and "The Spoon and the City", the inaugural and permanent exhibition of the ADI Design Museum (2021). For the Salone del Mobile he has curated, among others, the exhibitions "A Dream Come True. SaloneSatellite Projects from Inception to Production" (2007), "Marvellous Tables" (2008), "Unexpected Guests" (2010), "Rooms" (2016), and "SaloneSatellite. 20 Years of New Creativity" (2017). He has been a member of the SaloneSatellite Selection Committee since its first edition (1998). In 2023 he was the scientific curatorship of the project "The City of Lights" for EuroLuce, and afterwards he oversaw the production of its catalogue.



# Contacts



Salone del Mobile.Milano



## Salone del Mobile.Milano International Press Office

For more information or interview requests, please get in touch with the Press Office.  
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