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## **WWIII – World War III**

Atelier Van Lieshout and the Dutch manufacturer Lensvelt celebrate their long collaboration with an exhibition of furniture pieces at Ventura Lambrate District.

Abitare. "World War III." March 26, 2012, [www.Abitare.it](http://www.Abitare.it).

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A gigantic blue cannon in the middle of the exhibition celebrates more 12 and half years of collaboration between the internationally recognized studio and workshop of Dutch artist Joep van Lieshout – Atelier Van Lieshout (AVL) – and the Dutch contractfurniture manufacturer Lensvelt, founded in 1962.

*“The friendship between me and Joep van Lieshout dates from the late nineties. I exactly remember my first visit to his studio, located at Keilestraat in Rotterdam. The studio looked out on a spot where at that time, many prostitutes, gigolos... withdrew with their clients. After passing the expected problems, I finally reached the studio where an even more surprising universe was waiting for me. Until that moment, I had worked only with architects and designers. Joep was the first artist I met. Since then a close friendship grew between us, we made many trips together to the most extreme corners of the world... During a certain kind of sabbatical quarter, I even joined Atelier Van Lieshout, and I contributed to the realization of the huge scaffolding installation Sportopia 2002 at the Dutch Pavillion at the XXV Bienal de Art São Paulo, in 2002.”* Hans Lensvelt

Starting with the design classics AVL Shaker Chair and Table in the early ‘90’s, the collaboration continued with the development of the AVL Office Chair (2002) for the headquarters of the insurance company Interpolis, in the South of the Netherlands. Currently the AVL Office Chair is one of Lensvelt’s most successful design products. This was followed up by the AVL Skull, AVL Home edition set, AVL Workbench and AVL King Kong chair in 2006. In 2010, on the occasion of the exhibition ‘Inferno 2010’ organized by Museum Boijmans van Beuningen in Rotterdam, the AVL Glyder seating system was developed and presented to the public for the first time.

The exhibition at Ventura Lambrate district will give an overview of the large number of furniture pieces that were developed thanks to the close relationship between the artist Joep van Lieshout and the entrepreneur Hans Lensvelt. Furthermore it will show three newest offsprings: AVL Koker, AVL Spider and AVL Cloud Table.

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