

**Anna Lindgren, Katja Pettersson, Sofia Lagerkvist, and Charlotte von der Lancken
for Front Design. Established 2003**

The four members of Front Design, Anna Lindgren, Katja Pettersson, Sofia Lagerkvist, and Charlotte von der Lancken, design objects, furniture and interiors that explore the process of making and question the conventional role of the designer. The “Design by” series, exhibited in Milan in 2004, marked the beginning of this self-referential study. Rather than presiding over the formal process as ‘creator’, Front illustrates an impersonal approach to design, in which random factors intervene to determine formal results. Their “Design by Rats” wallpaper, for example, is determined by the amorphous shapes and voids left on a roll of plain white paper that was gnawed by rats. When this new, white wallpaper is applied on top of old wallpaper or a colored wall, it is the series of voids that produces the pattern, revealing old motifs and colors through the holes.

In 2004, Front designed the interior of the Tensta Kunsthall art gallery in Stockholm. Their design allows and encourages visitors to affect changes to the gallery’s environment. Feet wear away the painted floor in patterns, exposing a secondary color beneath the topcoat; plastic chairs are available for different seating groups and can be rearranged by guests at will; thousands of plastic hooks display visitor’s coats and hats as an ever-changing wall display. These changes are gradual, so that every time you visit, something looks different.

This conceptual approach to design is akin to recent Dutch design trends, particularly that of the Droog Design collaborative in Holland. This past September, Front presented a solo exhibition of their work at the Droog Gallery in Amsterdam.

In their most recent work, Front Design transformed sketches of tables, lamps, and chairs into physical objects. Designs are recorded by motion-capture technology that digitally records the movements of an electronic “pen” onto a three-dimensional file. These drawings are materialized through a process called laser sintering, whereby a laser beams ultraviolet light into a bath of liquid plastic, mimicking the artists’ motion and solidifying the plastic in the path of the beam. The resulting hard plastic forms are coated in white lacquer. Rapid prototyping technology was originally developed to make precise copies of human bones and has been co-opted by the film industry for three-dimensional animation, making recent computer-generated movies like Shrek possible. Front’s adaptation of this technology serves to eliminate the conventional design processes of “making.” Their “Materialized Sketches” transform ideas into objects in just one step.

Front Design, Established 2003

Charlotte van der Lancken
2004 MA, Industrial Design, Konstfack, Stockholm

Anna Lindgren
2004 MA, Industrial Design, Konstfack, Stockholm

Sofia Lagerkvist
2004 MA, Industrial Design, Konstfack, Stockholm

Katja Pettersson
2004 MA, Industrial Design, Konstfack, Stockholm

Exhibitions

- 2016 *Atoms + Bytes: Redefining Craft in the Digital Age*. Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, WA
- 2013 - 2014 *My Brain Is in My Inkstand: Drawing as Thinking and Process*. Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI
- 2009 - 2010 *Elles*. Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
- 2009 *Nature in a Kit*. Mudac Design Museum, Lausanne, Switzerland
Salone del Mobile, Milan, Italy
Veuve Cliquot 'Out of the Box', Milan
Märta Maas Fjetterström 'Märta flyger igen', Liljevalchs, Stockholm
- 2008 *Rococo: The Continuing Curve, 1730-2008*. Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, New York, NY
Design and the Elastic Mind. Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Randomly Crystalline. Swarovski, Milan, Italy
Glow Lamps. Coin, Milan, Italy
Swarovski Crystal Palace, Swarovski, Milan
- 2007 *Sketch Furniture by Front*. Tokyo Wonder Site, Tokyo, Japan
Installation of illustration-inspired furniture. Spazio Rossana Orlandi, Milan, Italy
The Magic Collection. Design Miami/Art Basel 2007, Miami, FL
Found. Spazio Rossana Orlandi, Milan, Italy
21_21 Design Sight. Chocolate, curated by Issey Miyake and Naoto Fukasawa, Tokyo, Japan
Design Indaba. Cape, Town, South Africa
- 2006 *Animal Thing*. CIBONE Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Bar by Front. Stockholm Design Bar, Interni, Stockholm Furniture Fair, Stockholm, Sweden
Design by Animals. Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
Allrum. Hotel de Ville, Paris, France
Gardens. Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, Toyota, Japan
The Courtyard, Promosedia. Gallery Rossana Orlandi, Milan
Simply Droog. Grand Hornu Images, Hornu, Belgium

Flower Wallpaper. Elle Deco Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan
Sketch Furniture. Design Tide, Tokyo, Japan
Sketch Furniture. Performance and Exhibition, Tokyo Wonder Site, Tokyo, Japan

2005 *Sketch Furniture*. Barry Friedman Ltd, Art Basel Miami, Miami, FL
Brännbart. Svensk Form, Sweden
Happy Style. Swedish Embassy, Tokyo, Japan
Front meets Droog. Droog Design Gallery, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Extra Ordinary, Designing with Energy, a research project. Culture House, Stockholm, Sweden
Promosedia. Spazio Orlandi, Milan, Italy
The European Design Show. Design Museum, London
Koncept design. National Museum, Stockholm, Sweden
Story of Things. Representation of Things, Salone Satellite, Milan, Italy
Expo 2005. Nordiska Paviljongen, Aichi, Japan
Swedish Style in Australia. Sidney; Melbourne, Australia
The Community Fältöversten. Fältöversten, Stockholm, Sweden
Tensta Konsthall. Stockholm Furniture Fair, Stockholm, Sweden

2004 *The Beauty and the Beast*. Crafts Council, London, England
Future Design Days. Stockholm, Sweden
Designed in Sweden. Museum of London, London, England
Young Swedish Form. Museum of London, London, England
Open Borders. Droog Design, FRAC Collections, Lille, France
Design etc. by Droog, Lille, France
Interior. Tensta Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden (permanent exhibition)
Design By. Masters Exhibition, Stockholm, Sweden
Salone Satellite, Milan, Italy
Moderna Museet. Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden
Konstfack Curator Program. Stockholm Art Fair, Stockholm, Sweden
Young Swedish Form. Stockholm Furniture Fair, Stockholm, Sweden
Form Magazine Exhibition. Svensk Form, Stockholm, Sweden
Design Film Pool. Färgfabriken, Göteborg Film Festival, Göteborg, Sweden
Svensk Form. Stockholm, Sweden
The Design Biennial 2004. France
Open Borders. Droog Design, Lille, France
Design By Animals. Salone Satellite, Milan, Italy

2003 *Design Film Pool*. Svensk Form, Stockholm, Sweden
Permanent exhibitions. Röhska Museum, Göteborg, Sweden
Konst! Svezia Extra. Gallery Pio Monti, Rome, Italy
Invisible Wealth. Färgfabriken, Stockholm, Sweden
Modern Talking. Gallery Enkehuset, Stockholm Art Fair, Stockholm, Sweden
Costume All over all all. Magasin, Grenoble, France

Design by Animals. Technology in new form, Stockholm Furniture Fair, Stockholm, Sweden

Awards

- 2013 Designs of the Year – Surface Tension Lamp, Design Museum London, UK
Interior Innovation Award – Gentle Chair for Porro, German Design Council, Germany
Elle Deco International Design Awards – Gentle Chair for Porro
Designs of the Year – Surface Tension Lamp for Booo, Design Museum London, UK
- 2012 Designer of the Year, Residence Magazine
Product Design of the Year Nomination, ICON Magazine
Best Domestic Design – Inlay Cupboard, Wallpaper Magazine Design
Chair of the Year – Collage for Gemla, Plaza Magazine
- 2010 Designer of the Year, Arkitektur&Wohnen
Designer of the Year, Torsten och Wanja Söderbergs Pris
Designer of the Year, Elle Deco Sweden
Designer of the Year, Elle Deco Germany
Designer of the Year, Residence
Designer of the Year, Elle Deco Russia
Best Product, Guldstolen
- 2007 Guldstolen, Swedish Association of Architects, Sweden
Designer of the Future Award, Art Basel/ Design Miami
Best Newcomer, Elle Deco Award, Tokyo
- 2006 Nominated for Best Newcomers Award, Elle Deco Japan, Tokyo, Japan
Designer of the Year, FX Award, London
- 2005 Best Young Designer of the Year, Wallpaper Magazine
Best interior Tensta Konsthall, Forum Magazine
- 2004 Designer of the Year, Future Design Days

Museum and Public Collections

Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
Fonds Régionaux d'Art Contemporain, Lille, France
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA (Materialized Sketch of Table, Round-back Chair)
Israel Museum, Jerusalem (Materialized Sketch of aTable)
Musée de Design et d'Arts Appliqués Contemporains, Lausanne, Switzerland

Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montreal, Montreal, Canada (Materialized Sketch of Round-Back, Materialized Sketch of Table)
National Museum, Stockholm, Sweden
Rohsska Museum of Design and Applied Art, Gothenburg, Sweden (Materialized Sketch of Square-back chair)
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK (Blow Away Vase)
Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany (Materialized Sketch of Round-back Chair)

Literature

Chul R. Kim, Ed. *Rococo: The Continuing Curve*. New York: Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, 2008.

Hruska, Libby and Rebecca Roberts, Eds. *Design and the Elastic Mind*. New York: Museum of Modern Art, Department of Publications, 2008.

Yusaku Imamura. *Sketch Furniture by Front*. Japan: Tokyo Wonder Site, 2007.

Klantern, Robert, Sophie Lovell and Birga Meyer. *Furnish: Furniture and Interior Design for the 21st Century*. Berlin: Die Gestalten, 2007.

Press

2016

Upchurch, Michael. "Atoms + Bytes' blur lines between digital, traditional," *The Seattle Times*, May 24, 2016.

2012

Gustafson, Eleanor. "The High Road." *Modern Magazine*, Spring 2012

2010

Sundergeld, Dorothea. "Lust und Tabu." *ART Das Kunstmagazin*, October 2010

2008

Skov, Steven Holt and Mara Holt Skov. "Please don't be Seated." *Art News*, December, 2008.

Ouroussoff, Nicolai. "The Soul in the New Machines." *The New York Times*, February 22, 2008.

2007

Kengelbach, Jörn. "Ross und Weiter." *GQ Germany*, October, 2007.

Snow, Jean. "Story Of: Sketch Furniture." *Azure*, March - April 2007.

McKeough, Tim. "Animal Attraction." *Men's Vogue*, July - August 2007.

Van Rossem, Jan. "Skizzen zum Sitzen." *Architecture & Wohnen*, February - March, 2007.

"Möbel malen." *Hochparterre*, January - February, 2007.

Onderwater, Alexandra. "Migrants for a Month." *Frame*, January - February, 2007.

Romanelli, Marc. "Sketch Furniture." *Abitare*, February, 2007. Pgs. 92-95.

"Front." *Living Design*, Winter, 2007.

"Is it possible to let a first sketch become an object..." *Kinhthe & Do thi*, Singapore, January, 2007.

2006

Trebay, Guy. "In Search of a Sofa to Go Under the Schnabel." *New York Times: House & Home*, December 8, 2006.

"Designer's Eyes from Scandinavia." *Elle Deco*, December, 2006.

"Front." *Casa Brutus*, Japan, December, 2006.

"Front." *Studio Voice*, Japan, December, 2006.

"Front." *Casa Brutus*, Japan, November, 2006.

"Swedish Style [Wallflowers] [Sketch furniture by Front]." *Nikkei Architecture*, October 2006.

"A Decade of Design." *Wallpaper*, October, 2006.

Jatras, Todd. "Scribble Me This." *Wired*, May, 2006.

Lenander, Johanna. "Sketch Troop." *Surface*, Spring, 2006.