



“Night Walker,” *Vogue*, August 2011.

**FRIEDMAN BENDA** 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001

**FRIEDMANBENDA.COM** TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760



# NIGHT WALKER

*English designer Faye Toogood explores the dark side in Natura Morta – a provocative exhibition and series of midnight dinners held within an 18th-century Milanese apartment.*

FAYE TOOGOOD BASKS IN A FLOOD OF DAYLIGHT IN ERASTUDIO, THE VENUE FOR THE DESIGNER'S MIDNIGHT DINNERS AND HER DISTINCTIVE EXHIBITION OF NEW DESIGNS.

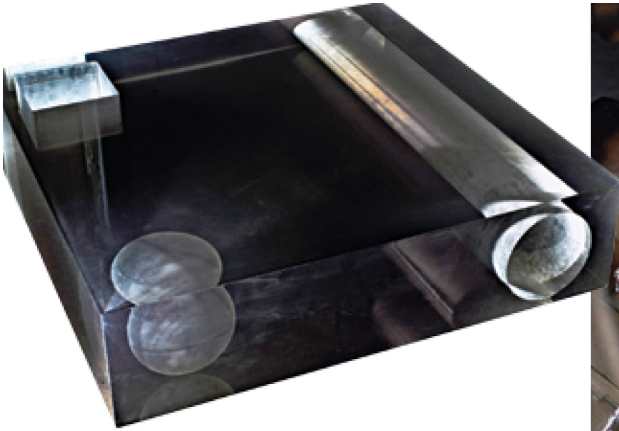
34 VOGUE LIVING JUL/AUG 11

“Night Walker,” *Vogue*, August 2011.

**FRIEDMAN BENDA** 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001

**FRIEDMANBENDA.COM** TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760





OF HER RESISTANCE to being pigeonholed as a certain type of designer, Faye Toogood says, "I have a constant need and desire for reinvention – I get bored easily." The designer and creative director of Studio Toogood certainly is consistent in her desire for inconsistency, defying trend and inverting the idyllic and cheerful sentiment of past work in new project *Natura Morta*.

The provocative show was presented during 2011's Milan Design Week at Erastudio, an 18th-century apartment turned gallery space. As well as a platform to launch her new series of furniture and objects, *Natura Morta* was an environment in which to explore Toogood's burgeoning fascination with the dark side. "*Natura morta* means 'still life' in Italian, but the direct English translation is 'dead nature'. A lot has happened in the world that has brought home to me nature's brutality. There is something beautiful about that darkness, so I wanted to explore the dark side of the natural world and of human nature," she says.

The simplicity of Toogood's first collection was inverted in the second, a process she describes in photographic terms as akin to working in the negative. Rustic British materials – English sycamore, brass, and Portland stone – at the core of that first range have been usurped. Their elemental replacements include smoky solid resin, aluminium and melted pewter, which erupted in volcanic forms across the surface of sandcast 'lunar plates'. >



THE DELICATE WOODEN 'ELEMENT' TABLE FROM STUDIO TOOGOOD'S FIRST COLLECTION WAS MADE OVER IN A SMOKY SOLID RESIN, TOP LEFT, WITH A FLOATING SPHERE INSIDE IT TO ELICIT THE EXPERIENCE OF "LOOKING AT THE MOON AGAINST THE DARK SKY," SAYS THE DESIGNER. REFERENCES TO THE MOON APPEARED AGAIN IN THE 'LUNAR PLATES', THIS PICTURE AND ABOVE.



ABOVE LEFT: FETISH COSTUME DESIGNERS WERE EMPLOYED TO ENCASE 'SPADE' CHAIRS IN IMMACULATE HAND-STITCHED LEATHER AND SUEDE COVERS. JUXTAPOSED AGAINST EROTIC DRAWINGS BY PIERO FORNASSETTI, THE CHAIRS BECAME RIFFS ON THE MASCULINE AND THE FEMINE. ABOVE: *NATURA MORTA* POSTER. RIGHT: PIECES FOR *ASSEMBLAGE 2*, TOOGOOD'S SECOND COLLECTION OF OBJECTS AT ERASTUDIO.

"Night Walker," *Vogue*, August 2011.

**FRIEDMAN BENDA** 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001

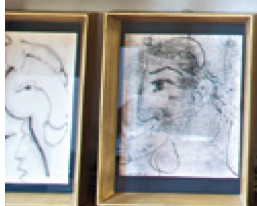
**FRIEDMANBENDA.COM** TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760



# MILAN



THE STRONG CONCEPTUAL FOCUS OF THE *UNDERKITCHEN* MIDNIGHT DINNERS WAS DRIVEN HOME IN A SERIES OF FOUR OVER-SCALED STILL-LIFE IMAGES BY PHOTOGRAPHER MARIUS W. HANSEN. ART DIRECTED BY FAYE TOOGOOD AND STYLED BY FRANCESCA SARTI, THE STRIKING PHOTOGRAPHS, INCLUDING *CHEESE AND FLINT*, LEFT, PROVIDED A BACKDROP TO THE *NATURA MORTA* PROJECT WITH NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN EROTIC DRAWINGS FROM PIERO FORNASETTI'S ARCHIVES.



THE *UNDERKITCHEN* MIDNIGHT DINNERS SAW GUESTS SERVED A TASTING MENU OF 'BLACK' FOOD THAT INCLUDED CHEESE ON CHUNKS OF CHARCOAL DISPLAYED IN THIS WOODEN PIT.

36 *Vogue Living* JUL/AUG 11

"Night Walker," *Vogue*, August 2011.

**FRIEDMAN BENDA** 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001

**FRIEDMANBENDA.COM** TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760





< Past pieces were reborn in new incarnations, including the rustic 'Spade' chair encased in handstitched leather and also in a roughly cast aluminium anodised to charcoal black.

At night, the *Natura Morta* morphed into the setting for *Underkitchen*. One of the most talked about events of the Design Week calendar, the series of private midnight dinners was art directed by the designer and involved a seamless integration of fashion, design, food and art. Guests sampled from an intriguing tasting menu of 'black' dishes created by food design collective Arabeschidi Latte that saw simple ingredients used in unexpected ways: dishes included artichoke flowers carbonised to jet black on a barbecue and eggs dyed in tea to metamorphose as giant glossy marbles.

Seen alone or considered in its entirety, *Natura Morta* delivered a compelling demonstration of Toogood's extraordinary powers of imagination. "I think I am very much a storyteller. It's about finding new ways to tell stories," she says. MADELEINE HINCHY



BREAD DYED BLACK WITH SQUID INK. EACH PIECE OF THE RUSTIC DESSERT WAS SKEWERED ON AN ANTIQUE CUTLERY KNIFE THEN DIPPED IN WATER AND BROWN SUGAR. TOP LEFT: THE TOP OF THE 'STRATUM' TABLE, PART OF STUDIO TOOGOOD'S NEW COLLECTION, IS MADE FROM LAYERS OF ARCHITECTURAL ALUMINIUM PROFILES IN DIFFERENT SHADES OF BLACK, CLAMPED TOGETHER USING HEAVY INDUSTRIAL BRASS FIXINGS ON A PAIR OF SAND-CAST ALUMINIUM TRESTLE LEGS. CENTRE: *UNDERKITCHEN* WAITRESSES WORE OUTFITS DESIGNED FOR THE EVENT - 'BAT' DRESSES WITH INDIVIDUAL HEADPIECES DESIGNED BY TOOGOOD WITH ZARA GORMAN - NEVER DISPLAYED BEFORE. DRAWINGS FROM PIERO FORNASETTI'S *EROTICA* SERIES WERE PART OF THE EXHIBITION. TOP RIGHT: THE 'SPADE' STOOL IN SYCAMORE. INSET: FAYE TOOGOOD.

PHOTOGRAPHY: PAUL BARBERA TEXT: MADELEINE HINCHY

"Night Walker," *Vogue*, August 2011.

**FRIEDMAN BENDA** 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001

**FRIEDMANBENDA.COM** TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760