



### **This Is Not a Prize by Mutina**

**Mutina supports Shimabuku – the winner of This is Not a Prize #4 – in the realization of his exhibition at Museion Bolzano**

The annual prize by Mutina, which Shimabuku was awarded in 2019, takes the shape of Mutina's support of his exhibition titled *Shimabuku. Me, We* at Museion in Bolzano. Mutina has also contributed to the production of Shimabuku's ceramic work *Moon and Potato*, specifically realized for the occasion.

### **Shimabuku. Me, We**

**06.05.2023 – 03.09.2023**

**Curated by Bart van der Heide**

**Press preview: 04.05.2023, at 12.00 pm**

**Opening: 05.05.2023, at 7.00 pm**

**Opening party: OCCUPY Museion from 8.30 pm to 12.00 am**

Mutina for Art is delighted to announce *Me, We*, the exhibition by Shimabuku (\*1969, Kobe, Japan) at Museion, museum for modern and contemporary art Bolzano. The exhibition is the first solo show by the Japanese artist in Italy and his largest project so far in Europe.

Mutina is proud to support Museion in the realization of Shimabuku's show as path conclusion of the award *This Is Not a Prize*, assigned to Shimabuku in 2019 by a commission composed of Bart Van der Heide (curator and director, Museion Bolzano), Sarah Cosulich (curator, Mutina for Art), Barber & Osgerby (designers), Ambra Medda (design specialist and journalist), and Massimo Orsini (CEO of Mutina and collector). The commission awarded This Is Not a Prize 2019 to Shimabuku for the unique character of his artistic language and his multi-faceted and generous imaginary that combines lightness and depth. Shimabuku's works are poetic encounters, ironic and unexpected situations that overturn our perception of the world and transport viewers into a new reality of allusion, surprise and enchantment.

On the occasion of *Shimabuku. Me, We* at Museion in Bolzano, Mutina has also supported Shimabuku in the production of a new work in ceramics. Titled *Moon and Potato*, the sculpture has been realised specifically for the exhibition in Bolzano. It presents a visual dialogue between a moon and a potato, two apparently different objects which the artist has unexpectedly put in relation to each other.

### **THIS IS NOT A PRIZE**

The award This Is Not a Prize assigned annually to an artist by Mutina reformulates the notion of the prize, in order to sustain the needs of the awarded artist by supporting one of his/her/their future project: an exhibition, a publication or the production of a new artwork. *This Is Not a Prize* has continued annually until today, allowing Mutina to collaborate with artists in diverse ways. From the realisation of dedicated exhibitions in the Mutina spaces of Fiorano Modenese and Milan, to projects in support of museums, biennials and other international artistic institutions.

As part of the Mutina for Art programme, the award *This Is Not a Prize* confirms Mutina's commitment to creating opportunities through diversified collaborations within the art world, and to establishing new dialogues among those producing and creating culture.



### **SHIMABUKU. ME, WE EXHIBITION IN BOLZANO AND MOON AND POTATO**

The exhibition, entitled *Shimabuku. Me, We*, draws inspiration from a saying by the world-famous boxer and activist Muhammad Ali, which is often considered to be the shortest poem in the world and a relationship in itself.

Shimabuku's cross-disciplinary art offers a subtle, curious, and humorous approach to the world. His works originate from a private moment of wonder, like an idea, a desired encounter, or a poem. Through his interaction with his surroundings, intimacy becomes public as the artist enacts his thoughts. Ultimately, his photographic, filmic, and sculptural memories of these encounters act as a public declaration in the exhibition space. Hence, Shimabuku successfully captures the affinity between animals, landscapes, histories, ideas, and people as he unfolds unexpected and fleeting moments of sharing and mirroring.

The exhibition covers two floors of the Museion building and will showcase a variety of artworks dating from the early 90s up until today, as well as pieces produced especially for this context. The third floor will display a retrospective "flow of episodes", without a linear chronology, while the fourth floor will feature a thematic combination between existing and new productions. Central to this selection is the pairing of different entities, such as objects, animals, fruit, histories, and global geographies.

*Moon and Potato*, the ceramic work produced by Mutina in collaboration with Shimabuku, is part of a group of works in which the artist blurs the lines that separate objects and images, in an attempt to explore the interactions between the outer and inner dimensions of the self.

### **MOON AND POTATO (TECHNICAL INFORMATION)**

The base of the work is stamped by hand. Coloured and transparent glazes are applied to the semi-refractory white ceramic mixture. The moon is created by casting, with a white earthenware clay on which a matt glaze is applied. The potato is also created by casting, with a white earthenware clay on which a matt glaze with oxides is applied. The work was created with the invaluable support of Ceramica Gatti.



## **MUTINA**

A company of excellence, Mutina represents a new way of looking at ceramics, no longer simply as tiles but as an interior design project in its own right. It is a designer's project that combines technology, craftsmanship and experimentation to overcome the limits imposed by materials, as well as essential research into extending the high quality of the product.

Mutina works together with designers such as Michael Anastassiades, Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby, Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, Nathalie Du Pasquier, Konstantin Grcic, Hella Jongerius, Laboratorio Avallone, OEO Studio, Raw Edges, Inga Sempé, Patricia Urquiola, Tokujin Yoshioka and Vincent Van Duysen, who all share in the same passion and unique approach to the product, based on continuous research.

## **MUTINA FOR ART**

Mutina for Art is a project dedicated to contemporary art that originates at MUT, an exhibition space within Mutina Headquarters in Fiorano Modenese, and from 2021, also in the space of Casa Mutina Milan. Besides a regular programme of solo and group shows, the Mutina for Art initiative also comprises the award This Is Not a Prize, given annually in the support of an international artist, and Dialogue, a series of collaborative projects with artists, galleries and institutions worldwide.

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