



GOOD DAYS

Good Days is Michael Anastassiades' new exhibition at Spazio Mutina, open to the public by appointment only from September 30 to January 24, 2024. The event marked the launch of three brand-new products designed by Michael Anastassiades for Mutina: **Rings**, **Continental** and **Equinox**—further strengthening the ongoing collaboration between the designer and the brand.

Alongside the new creations are the iconic **Bamboo Lights**, first presented at ICA Milan and now re-exhibited at Spazio Mutina, serving as a prelude to Anastassiades' ongoing exploration of nature and light.

At the heart of the exhibition is **Rings**, a square "tile" made of natural oak wood, created by assembling four pieces. The individual modules are obtained using the "cross-cutting" technique and feature the typical grain of logs in section, structured on concentric rings—hence the name. **Rings** exemplifies the designer's philosophy of merging natural forms with architectural design, bringing an organic element into the space.

On the walls, we find several models of **Continental**, a new ceramic Edition consisting of a white glazed shelf with an irregular edge. Each piece in the series is distinguished by a natural break along the upper rim of the material, the result of a handmade process that ensures every shelf is unique. This irregularity turns the shelf into more than just a functional object, giving it the presence of a sculptural piece.

Then we have **Equinox**, an elegant Edition of a porcelain vase modelled after a realistic ostrich egg. Inside, a weight adjusts the vase's inclination, allowing it to maintain a delicate balance, as though always on the verge of tipping. This precarious equilibrium is central to its symbolic power. Named after the ancient belief that an egg could stand upright only during the Spring equinox, the new Edition encapsulates the tension between fragility and stability, making it a pure object of potential energy.

The new products by Michael Anastassiades for Mutina offer a comprehensive view of the Cypriot designer's poetic approach to projects and materials, conveying an image of a world where man and nature are in perfect harmony and where light becomes the vital force that animates everything.

"I wanted to create objects that were entirely outside the language of Mutina—to make a seemingly 'broken' shelf and to work on the perfect replica of an ostrich egg. I wanted to do something no one would have expected, neither from me nor from Mutina."

Together, **Rings**, **Continental**, and **Equinox** represent Anastassiades' vision of design as a rework of natural patterns, emphasising the beauty of imperfection and the balance between function and artistic expression.

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RINGS

Rings is a unique **wooden collection** created by **Michael Anastassiades** for Mutina. The modules resemble ceramic "tiles" but are made from the random assembly of four pieces of natural oak, cut in sections with a technique called "cross-cutting". The product allows for non-oriented flooring, where the grains are arranged randomly. Each module is characterised by concentric rings that give the collection its name.

Despite the firm reference to nature, Rings is inspired by the world of industrial flooring. These are usually subjected to a layering of metallic debris and nails, which end up being incorporated into the surface, creating an interesting layering effect. To honour this involuntary process, Anastassiades designed a collection variant enriched with small inserts of aged *délabré* brass. During the design phase, one can choose the density and orientation of the brass element, giving a different degree of shine to the floor.

Rings is available in two variants: **Plain** and **Brass**. Each features natural oak modules measuring 17.5x17.5 cm and 15 mm in thickness, while the brass insert measures 1x5 cm.

"I wanted to create something similar to an industrial flooring, using the end grain of the wood. I then added the brass element as a reference to the accidental intrusions that are layered into that type of wood with use. Therefore, it is a symbolic reference rather than a decoration. And it gives the wood an unexpected shine in unexpected places."

CONTINENTAL

Continental is a **ceramic Edition** designed by **Michael Anastassiades**. It is a shelf featuring an irregular, handmade break on the upper edge attached to the wall, which is always different. The idea was to create a series of unique objects that recall the unpredictable configuration of nature, lying on the border between product and sculpture. It is available in limited edition.

Continental owes its name to the so-called "continental shelf", a portion of the continent submerged by a relatively shallow water area known as "shelf sea". The play on words originates from the double meaning of the term "shelf".

Continental measures 90x24.6 cm and has a variable height between 29.6 and 32.1 cm, depending on the workmanship of the "crack" that makes each piece unique. It is made with casting technique and is available in white and black glazes.

"I think the idea of a broken surface is very interesting. Continental has a rough yet authentic finish as if it were a product of nature. And, just like in nature, each piece is unique."



EQUINOX

Equinox is a **white porcelain Edition** designed by **Michael Anastassiades**. The vase takes on the shape of a realistic ostrich egg and is available in limited edition. At its end, it features a broken hole for placing plants and flowers. The surface is characterised by a dotted texture, highlighting the product's raw nature. A small weight inside allows the object to be positioned both vertically and horizontally, always maintaining a slight tilt.

Equinox owes its name to ancient belief, in which it was possible to balance an egg only during the Spring equinox. The phenomenon was thought to be associated with the moon's interference with the gravitational field. The theory gives the name to this object full of symbolic references, which is delicately balanced but always seems on the verge of falling.

Equinox measures 15x17 cm, with a hole diameter of 2.3 mm, and is available in a single unglazed colour. The porcelain composition is obtained using a special mixture of clay, quartz, and kaolin, fired between 1,200 and 1,500°C.

"Having the egg a perfect shape, you think it might roll down and break at any moment. I precisely liked the idea of creating almost a tension toward something that will never happen. Somehow, Equinox grabs that moment just before and freezes it."

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