



## GOOD DAYS

*Good Days* is Michael Anastassiades' new exhibition, to be held at **Spazio Mutina** from **September 23, 2024, to January 24, 2025**.

The title follows his previous work exhibited at ICA (Milan) in 2021, *Cheerfully Optimistic About the Future*. "In a historical period full of negativity," the designer states, "it is necessary to find a renewed positive vision of the world and the times to come." For this reason, he starts with light, which has characterised his work for many years.

The exhibition opens with the iconic **Bamboo Light**, originally presented at ICA, and exhibited again at Spazio Mutina. The structures, made of bamboo canes held together by waxed linen threads, refer to the natural world and what it can offer—making human intervention almost superfluous. Thus, all the exhibited products propose a vision of design as a reworking of existing natural patterns—perfect precisely in their irregularity.

In addition to the Bamboo Light, the exhibition presents an installation of columns playfully positioned in the space and covered with a surface specially designed by Anastassiades for the occasion. This is a new 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**.

On the walls, we find several models of the **Continental** Edition, a ceramic shelf in a white glaze with an irregular cut, standing in the space like an authentic sculpture. Each model is characterised by a break in the raw material on the upper edge, which, being handmade, makes each piece unique.

The last object created by Anastassiades for the exhibition is the **Equinox** Edition, a realistic ostrich egg made of white porcelain that can be used as a vase, its inclination being regulated by the insertion of a weight inside it that gives it stability and adjusts its tilt. Thus, Equinox gives the impression of being always delicately balanced, almost on the verge of falling. The tension generated by Equinox is an integral part of its symbolic strength, making it a precarious, pure object full of potential energy. The name refers to an ancient belief, in which it was possible to balance an egg only during the Spring equinox.

The exhibition offers a comprehensive view of the Cypriot designer's poetic approach to design and materials, offering 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."



## 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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