

The Belgian Virtual Exhibition © Photo: Cielo Alejandra | ADORNO

## “We (Be)Come One” - *Unity, the key for the future*

### PRESS RELEASE

The Belgian Collection  
London, UK  
London Design Festival  
18-26 September 2021

Adorno is pleased to announce the Belgian collection, “We (Be)Come One”, as a part of Adorno London 2021. Presented in the Atomium in Brussels, “We (Be)Come One” stresses the importance of connections for the future of design. Curated by freelance journalist Elien Haentjens, the collection features nine designers whose work unites through a diversity of form, material, and technique to address issues relating to the environment and the need for a greater shift toward sustainability in our world.

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As a collection, “We (Be)Come One” draws on the belief that none of us are alone or isolated; some things extend beyond our personal environments, joining the entire world together as one. Featured designers Berre Brans, Daan De Wit, Delphine Cobbaert, DWA Design Studio, Ecobirdy, Emma Cogné, La Gadoue, Studio Plastique, and Zaventem Ateliers bring their individual approaches to design together to highlight the importance that unity and community will have moving forward.

The Belgian collection will be viewable as a virtual exhibition during the London Design Festival.

## CURATORIAL STATEMENT

We're connected worldwide. Not only in positive ways through the Internet or social media, but also in more disturbing situations, such as the pandemic or climate change. What happens on the other side of the world can impact us. To tackle these global challenges, and come up with innovative answers, we need to join hands. Or, as some might say in Belgium: unity makes us strong.

Unified in studios and small collectives, Belgian designers try to formulate answers to the main ecological and societal quests. They use natural or discarded materials, find new recipes to upcycle plastics, and subtly point out cultural barriers. In doing so, they create objects with a strong soul.

The Atomium perfectly summarises the story behind the “We (Be)Come One” collection. As a magnified visualisation of the iron element, it represented the hope about a new material and the general future after World War II. Built for the World Expo in 1958 in Brussels - which showed innovative and cultural products from countries all around the globe - it unifies science, architecture, and sculpture. It, alongside the pieces in this collection, demonstrates that connection is key in our natural surroundings.

MEET THE CURATOR  
ELIEN HAENTJENS



*“...To tackle these global challenges, and come up with innovative answers, we need to join hands. Or, as some might say in Belgium: unity makes us strong.”*

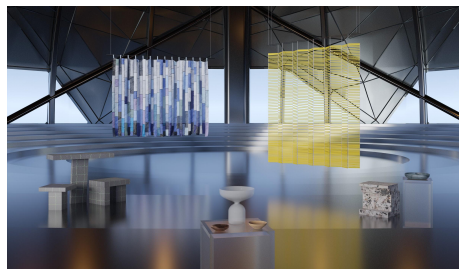
- Elien Haentjens

As a freelance journalist, Elien Haentjens has specialised in the fields of design and art since 2006. By doing so, she has further developed the expertise she gained while studying Art History at KU Leuven and Journalism at Vlekho in Brussels. Over the past ten years, she has interviewed numerous interesting designers, artists, gallery owners and entrepreneurs.

Since 2013, she has used this knowledge to curate exhibitions about Belgian design in Brazil. While she selected and showed finished pieces at first, she decided to intensify the Belgian-Brazilian dialogue by inviting Belgian designers to work with Brazilian artisans. This incentive resulted in two projects: Caro Barro and Joias.

Through design and art, she wants to make people confident enough to open up to others. This way, she wants to stimulate the global dialogue and at the same time ensure that people don't lose their own identity and local culture. This intercultural human dialogue gives the objects their emotional power.

VISITOR INFORMATION



**Virtual Exhibition**

With a view inside Brussels' landmark building, the Atomium, “We (Be)Come One” brings together emerging and established makers from the three regions of Belgium. From the unique construction of Emma Cogné's work to the solidity of Daan De Wit's stonework, this collection highlights the range of approaches in contemporary Belgian design.



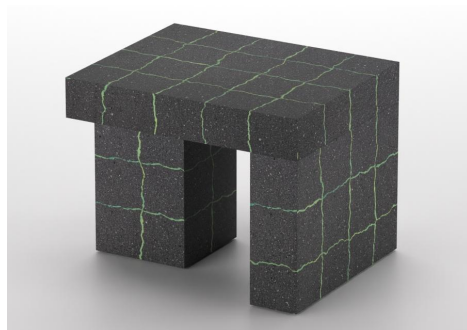
Visit the virtual exhibition  
18-26 September at  
[www.adorno.london](http://www.adorno.london)

**PARTICIPANTS**

Berre Brans  
Daan De Wit  
Delphine Cobbaert  
DWA Design Studio  
Ecobirdy  
Emma Cogné  
La Gadoue  
Studio Plastique  
Zaventem Ateliers

## THE COLLECTION

[Download High-res images](#)



**Left:** Berre Brans, "Tabouret", **Mid:** Daan De Wit, "Stratum Saxum Coffee Table 01" **Right:** Ecobirdy, "Mabo Plates"

**Left:** Emma Cogné, "Turborama", **Mid:** La Gadoue, "Grande Bleu", **Right:** Delphine Cobbaert, "Resonance"

**Left:** Zaventem Ateliers, "Blend", **Mid:** DWA Design Studio, "Crack" Table, **Right:** Studio Plastique, "Comrades"

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS

Title	Adorno London 2021: <i>Designing Futures</i>
Dates	18-26 September 2021
Virtual Exhibition	<a href="http://www.adorno.london">www.adorno.london</a>
Participating Countries	Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden
Images	Courtesy of the designers & photographers
Press kit	<a href="#">Link</a>
Press Contact	David Gorrod, <a href="mailto:press@adorno.design">press@adorno.design</a>

## ABOUT ADORNO

Adorno is a digital gallery for the best of collectible design and craft from around the globe. Selected by a network of on-the-ground curators from more than 30 design cities, Adorno's collections provide a unique insight into the world's diverse creative communities – and celebrate the work of the designers shaping them.

Each collection showcases only unique or limited-edition contemporary works, spanning the fields of furniture, textiles, ceramics, sculpture, and design-art. The curatorial approach varies from collection to collection – just as design culture varies from community to community – but every object featured is contemporary in style, experimental in approach, and exceptional in material quality.

The designers featured include both established names and emerging talents at the cusp of their careers, ensuring each collection is a snapshot of the people, techniques, styles, and thinking that define the modern making culture of each region. With each collection launch, Adorno adds a new chapter to the global design story.

In its essence, the infrastructure of Adorno includes the e-commerce platform ([www.adorno.design](http://www.adorno.design)), an international legal setup, and a global cost-efficient shipping solution that enables autonomous collaboration between curators and designers to promote their work and transact with a growing segment of international buyers. Besides running the online platform, Adorno exhibits at major design events worldwide.