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Press Release April 2014

STILL – Tools for purification

Charcoal, crystal and copper shaped to enjoy the most valuable drink: pure water.

What are the true luxury goods of today? For us, it's not glitter, gold or heavy cut crystal vases. People of today need carefully designed and well-crafted objects. Pure drinking water is a treasure and this drinking set – Still – reminds us to cherish and enjoy our world's most important resource.



Picture STILL 1

Photos and text available to download at:
www.lobmeyr.at/downloads/still (after April 8th)

Studio Formafantasma has designed a precious series of objects for J. & L. Lobmeyr

Still is a drinking collection in copper and engraved crystal that uses activated charcoal to purify your drinking water. Water covers 70% of the Earth's surface, and is vital for all known forms of life. Only 2.5% of the Earth's water reserve is freshwater and less than 0.3% of all freshwater is found in rivers, lakes, and the atmosphere.

Still is a collection of carefully engraved crystal vessels and copper instruments designed to serve the most humble and fundamental of all drinks: water.

This set has been developed for, and in cooperation with, the Viennese company

LOBMEYR

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J. & L. Lobmeyr. The quality produced by their metal and crystal workshop is appreciated throughout the world.

The collection pairs crystal with copper, using activated charcoal to improve the flavor of tap water. The pieces are part of the ongoing investigation into water purification started by the designers in 2012 with their previous project Charcoal, for Vitra Design Museum.

The craftsmanship expressed in the engraving, the delicate proportions of the copper filters, and subtle religious references invite the user to handle the pieces with care, transforming these simple gestures into a daily ritual of water purification. Each piece of crystal is engraved with two different patterns inspired by the production process itself. One is a contemporary microscopic view of river bacteria; the other a 19th-century illustration of an oceanic organism with a skeleton made of silica, the main element of glass.

As an homage to the grand Lobmeyr tradition, the designers have included two customized versions of the Candy Dish, designed by Oswald Haerdtl for the company in 1925, in the collection, used here as containers for activated charcoal. Formafantasma also designed a copper spoon, inspired by the iconic piece, and a series of copper cups in reference to the Alpha Drinking Set No. 267, designed by Hans Harald Rath.

Concept and design: Andrea Trimarchi, Simone Farresin

Design and development: Francesco Zorzi

Production: J. & L. Lobmeyr

Andrea Trimarchi and Simone Farresin are Studio Formafantasma

The collaboration between the two started during their BA in communication design, illustrating books and magazines. The interest in product design developed on the IM masters course at Design Academy Eindhoven, where they graduated in July 2009 with a thesis based on traditional Sicilian folk craft. The Italian designers duo based in Eindhoven's work explores such issues as the role of design in folk craft, the relationship between tradition and local culture, critical approaches to sustainability and the significance of objects as cultural conduits. They identify their role as the bridge between craft, industry, object and user and seek to stimulate a more critical and conceptual design dialogue through their work.

Works of Studio Formafantasma has been shown at Design MiamiBasel, Victoria and Albert Museum, Libby Sellers Gallery, Stedelijk Museum Den Bosch, Mudac, The Art Institute of Chicago, Fendi and Vitra Design Museum. In March 2011 Studio Formafantasma has been nominated by Alice Rawsthorn, design critic of the



International Herald Tribune and New York Times and Paola Antonelli, design curator of the MOMA in NY, as one of the twenty most promising young design studio. The studio has been between the finalists of the Index Award 2011, Brit Insurance Designs of the Year 2012.

At the moment they are teaching at the 'Well Being' Department of the Design Academy Eindhoven.

J. & L. LOBMEYR – tradition of innovation

The MOMA in New York collects it, Alain Ducasse serves it, the best designers create it, and people all over the world treasure it every day: glassware made by Viennese manufacturer J. & L. Lobmeyr sparks universal fascination. Lobmeyr chandeliers grace private living spaces, opera houses, consulates, palaces, and mosques from Mecca to Medina. The company, and its store on the historic Kärntner Straße in Vienna, has been owner-operated for six generations. Founded in 1823, it celebrates over 190 years of successful business.

Lobmeyr is continually working on a contemporary interpretation of glass, always with awareness of its own tradition. The interest in glass, practiced in our daily work, and ongoing dialogue with our artisans, designers, and customers have led to innovations time and again. In 1835, Josef Lobmeyr set the table of the imperial court with the Prism Cut Drinking Set and was given the title of Purveyor to the Imperial and Royal Court. The Plain Drinking Set No. 4 by Ludwig Lobmeyr from 1856 can be found in many of today's annals of design. The first electric chandelier was introduced in 1883, in cooperation with Thomas A. Edison. In 1905, Stefan Rath revisited the Viennese Baroque with his Drinking Set No. 231. The Muslin Drinking Set by Josef Hoffmann was created together with designers from the famous Wiener Werkstätte. In 1931, Drinking Set No. 248 by Adolf Loos foreshadowed the plain chalice shape that has remained valid to this very day. Oswald Haerdtl's Ambassador and the spherical candy dishes received the Grand Prix of the International Jury at the Art Deco exhibition in Paris in 1925. In 2007, the family business, now in its sixth generation, presented Ted Muehling's Balloon Tumbler Set, a subtle combination of style elements from different epochs. And many more.

J. & L. LOBMEYR

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Picture STILL 2



Picture STILL 3



Picture STILL 4



Picture STILL 5



Picture STILL 6



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