

LES

# *HOMMES*

PUBLICIS

JOSH UPSHAW

by NINO MUÑOZ

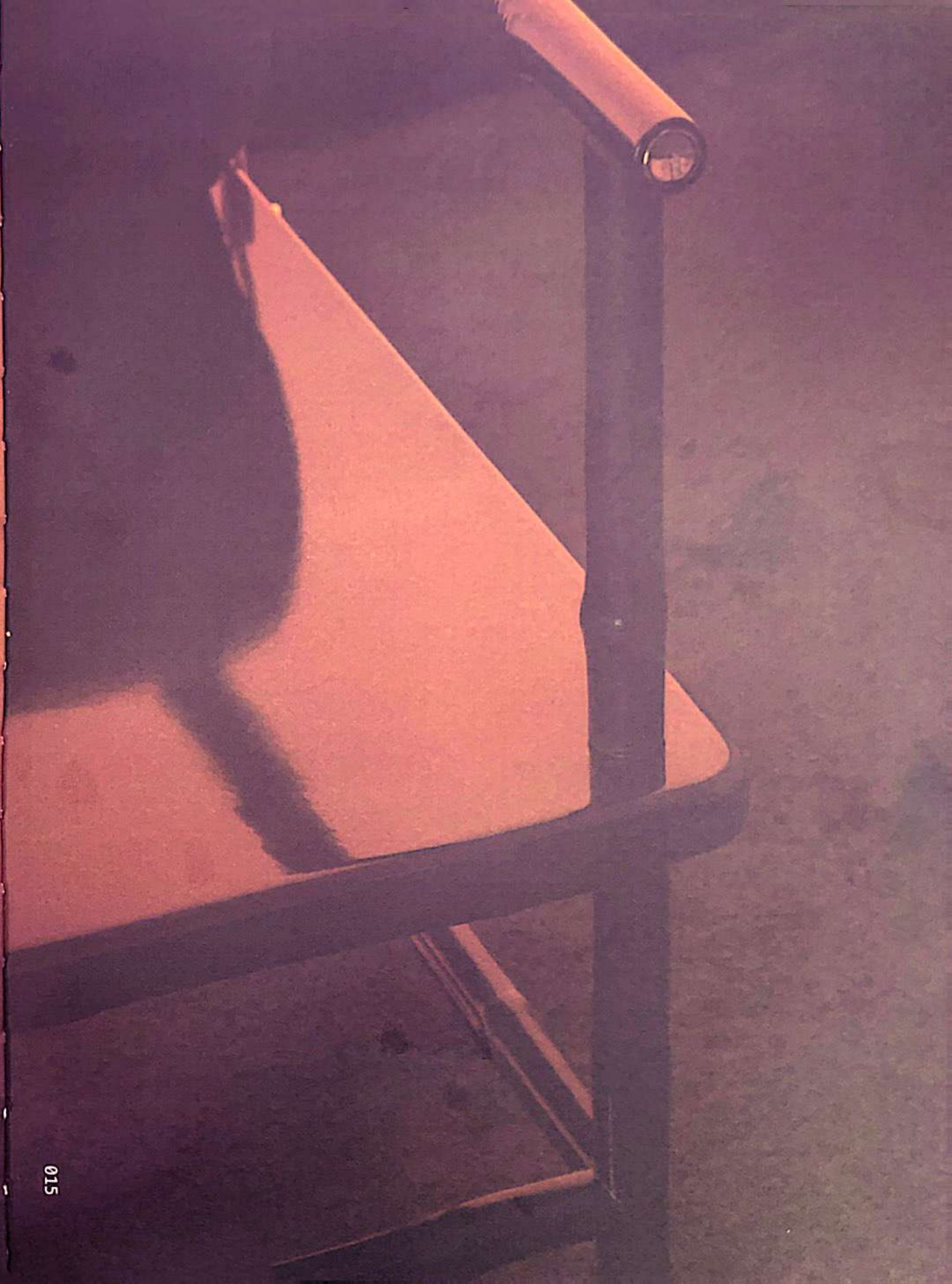
# SOLAR FLARE SUNSET



TEXT ON PAGE 004

014

015



## SOLAR FLARE SUNSET

PHOTOGRAPHY BENJAMIN BACCARANI  
TEXT YVES TSOU

«WE SAW TWO BEADS OF BLINDING LIGHT APPEAR OVER THE SUNSPOTS. BEFORE DAWN THE NEXT DAY, SKIES ALL OVER THE PLANET WERE BATHED IN YELLOW, TAINTED BY RADIATION. COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS WERE DISRUPTED, AND THEIR OPERATORS ELECTROCUTED, COVERING THE WORLD IN A NEW ALCHEMY OF EMERGING IN THE TROUBLED LANDSCAPE OF A SOLAR FLARE, INDIVIDUAL OBJECTS EVOKE A FUTURE EXISTENCE OF FABULOUS DISCOMFORT.»

014

Solar Flare Sunset - the first act of Monstrum Studio - starts as an intense solar phenomenon such as the immense eruption of energy radiations in the atmosphere. Paradoxically this scenario could happen earlier than expected, involving the global destiny of Humanity but also concerning a global aesthetic transformation. For Alcova 2023, Monstrum Studio stages this potential earthly scenario, developing a powerful and compelling oneiric vision of a possible eternal sunset. A romantic and intimate vision of the last incredible spectacle on our planet.



Following the theme of the 2023 edition of Fuorisalone, "Laboratorio Futuro", Monstrum Studio makes its debut during the Milano Design Week showing an aesthetical final vision: an eternal 'sunset' joins and stages the solar flare as an emblematic moment of passage, a frame of pre-ending light that perfectly unveils space and objects designed by Riccardo Villa Fabbati, founder of Monstrum in 2020.

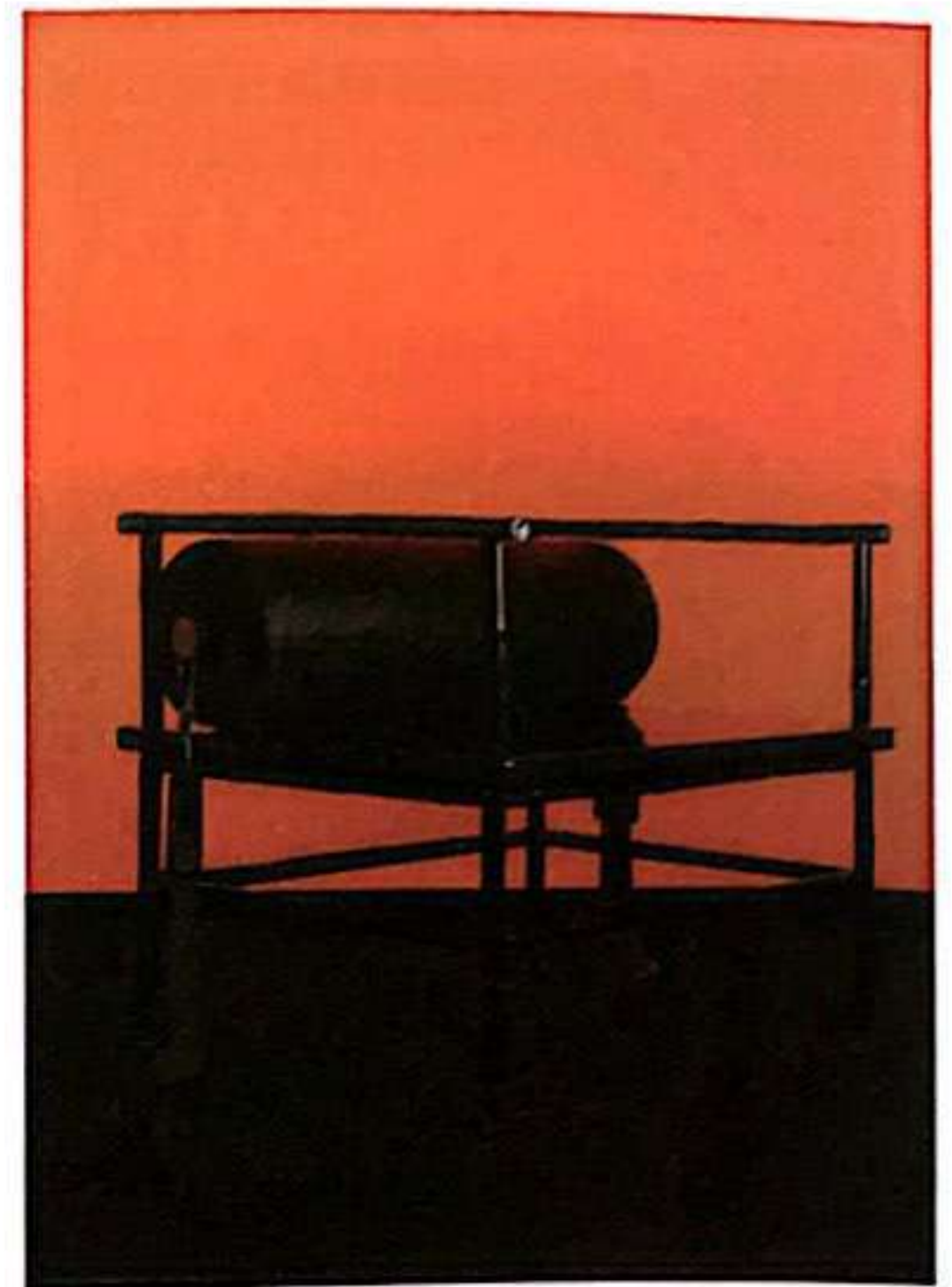
The sacred moments between sleep and waking life are ripe for insights and intuition. Monstrum Studio transforms Alcova Space into a radiating mass of hazy orange light. Similar to how dreams can provide a window into our unconscious, crepuscular moments can also allow great realizations and discoveries to rise up in our awareness.

Riccardo Villa Fabbati, architect and creative director, has decided to explore a different and complementary direction of the main theme of Fuorisalone. Solar Flare Sunset shows contemporary craft research and sensorial design capacity, alongside a unique and precious use of materials. Villa Fabbati shapes the future that we should accept but in the most glamorous way. After interior projects, installations, and fashion shows spread throughout Milan and Paris, Villa Fabbati proposes a singular reflection on how we should imagine future luxury pieces of design, in relation to the uniqueness of the times in which we are living now.

Created to explore themes of experience, mediation and representation, the installation roused something in us, the connections we have to each other and our dreams for the future, not only related to the future of our planet. Entering inside the space, you can see first the main object of the collection: Lilith - the throne chair with a structure in black lacquered bamboo, and play with its golden chrome chain tassels. Around, within the space he has created with his set, there is a monochromatic exquisite orange light, a 'souvenir' of a beautiful and decadent sunset that perfectly surrounds a sense of high luxury craftsmanship.

Globally, on the other six objects of the Solar Flare Sunset collection, there is an encouraging embrace of the beauty in discomfort that gave each piece a slightly unfinished feel, and probably for this aesthetically even more perfect.

Discomfort is not a negative word at Monstrum Studio, nor a 'memento mori'. Interior design has always been a mirror to society, with this set settled on dark sand, Riccardo Villa Fabbati may have been signalling this as a new prism: there is a new sense of 'bizarre' over next days ahead. Is this something we need right now and isn't only about design, especially during this edition of Salone del Mobile, which devotes to future sustainable solutions - meant to provide a form of esthetically escapism? Alternatively, as inside a collector's room, out of time, Monstrum Studio chooses to evoke an emotional eternal sunset filled with marvelous and magical objects. Back at the collection, visitors move inside the space, the objects are illuminated by a perfect choreography of shadows and lights. The set becomes a performative stage (and rite) of passage, a concrete place where the End of Humanity is considered a useful element to evolve.



On the floor, the light sculpture Hya makes a scenographic debut: a black totem composed of three stackable lamps with a triangular base in glossy black plexiglass. Does this sculpture become a symbolic meta-object that seduces the boundaries between past and future? Other impactful elements are the six lamps Spettro sconces on the wall. Their mirrors reflect the room and reveal the internal light.

Above, -Lucifuge- ceiling lamp, an alabaster sphere. The symbol of our Moon, now little and touchable, is made up of a monochromatic lamp, adorned with cascading gold fringes that control light intensity through hand touch.

**«THESE OBJECTS BEAR THE MARKS OF BOTH THE PAST AND THE FUTURE. EACH ONE IS A SYMBOL OF LAND AND A COMPANION IN WHAT MIGHT BE THE LAST AESTHETIC POEM OF HUMANITY.»**

This is the performative pearl that makes the visit inside the set quite exceptional, the object is alive and enchanted.

There is often a thread that runs through a debut collection, and inside Solar Flare Sunset that thread is made of gold and chrome finishes, which is used to delicately embroider over everything from lamps to chairs, from chains to alabaster. The precious metal was also a feature on a simple tray demonstrating the designer's expert hand at elevating everyday pieces into interior works of art. Yoni is a triangular sculptural pin tray with logo detail, presented in 24K Gold (also available in Ag. 1000 Silver Finish).