

**Champ Lacombe** presents *The Liquidity of Time*, a new solo exhibition by **Gaetano Pesce** (b. 1939, Italy. Lives and works in New York).

The show, curated by **Stella Bottai** and **Lucy Chadwick**, creates a dialogue between key historical works – some never exhibited previously – and newly commissioned pieces, such as an environmental resin floor painting and a large outdoor sculpture inspired by one of Pesce's lamp prototypes.

One of the world's most influential living artists, Pesce's work is renowned for blurring boundaries between art, design, and architecture and is celebrated worldwide for his provocative and experimental approach. Pesce's career spans over fifty years and nearly every medium, moving fluidly and playfully across categorical definitions of objecthood. Making a virtue of incoherence, over the years Pesce has prioritized his stance as an artist and intellectual. His designs embrace figuration and colour, challenging the physical properties of materials and playing with their unpredictable behaviour.

The title *The liquidity of time* encompasses one of the key principles of Pesce's artistic philosophy, that is the idea that the contemporary age is defined by continuous change, curiosity, uncertainty, and innovation. The artist thus seeks to reflect and give form to these forces employing fluid materials that allow him to pursue objects that, in his words, are sincere and truthful to their epoch.

Born in La Spezia, Italy, in 1939, Gaetano Pesce studied Architecture at the University of Venice between 1958 to 1963 and was a participant in *Gruppo N*, an early collective concerned with kinetic art patterned after the Bauhaus. He taught architecture at the Institut d'Architecture et d'Etudes Urbaines in Strasbourg, France for 28 years; Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh; Domus Academy in Milan; Polytechnic of Hong Kong; Architectural School of Sao Paulo; and the Cooper Union in New York City, where he has lived and worked since 1980. Pesce's work can be found in the permanent collections of over 30 national and international museums including the Museum of Modern Art in both New York and San Francisco; Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York; Vitra Museum in Germany; Pompidou Center and Musée des Arts Décoratifs of Louvre in Paris; and Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

His award-winning designs include the prestigious Chrysler Award for Innovation and Design in 1993, the Architektur and Wohnen Designer of the Year in 2006, the Lawrence J. Israel Prize from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York in 2009 and the XXVII Compasso d'Oro ADI - Product Career Award in 2022. His solo exhibition *My Dear Mountains* at the Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, CO, runs until 9 October 2022, including his first architectural façade.

## CHAMP LACOMBE

Gaetano Pesce

Born in La Spezia, Ligurie, Italy.  
Lives and Works in New York.

### Education:

1965            Graduated in Architecture and Industrial Design from the University of Venice, Venice, Italy.

### Selected exhibitions and Installations:

- 2022            *Nobody's Perfect*, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China  
*Nobody's Perfect*, Design Society, Shekou, China
- 2021            *In Memorial of a Friend*, Museo d'arte contemporanea, Genova, Italy  
*No more silent objects*, Salon 94 Design, New York, USA
- 2019            *Maestà Sofferente*, Piazza del Duomo for Milan, Italy
- 2010            *Pictures & Furniture Vernissage*, Avant Gallery, Miami, USA
- 1997            *Architecture et Industries*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France  
*Retrospective*, Centre Geoges Pompidou, Paris, France  
*Is the future now?*, Gaetano Pesce : *Material Explorations*, Material Connexion Gallery, New York, USA
- 1996            *Le Temps des Questions*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
- 1988            *Modern Times Again*, Steelcase Design Partnership, New York, USA  
*Gaetano Pesce: Drawings, Models, Prototypes*, Max Protetch Gallery, New York, USA
- 1975            *Le future est peut-être passé ?*, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Louvre Museum, Paris, France
- 1972            *Italy: The New Domestic Landscape*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA

### Public Collections:

Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY  
Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK  
Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, USA  
Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France  
Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France

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Musée des Arts Décoratifs Montréal, Canada

Museo d'Arte Moderna, Turin, Italy

Awards:

- 2010 IIC Lifetime Achievement Awards, Los Angeles, USA
- 2009 Lawrence J. Israel Prize, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, USA
- 2006 Designer of the Year, «A&W Architektur and Wohnen», Cologne, Germany
- 2005 Design Excellence Award, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, USA
- 2003 Good Design Award for the furniture collection «Nobody's perfect», Chicago, 2003
- 1995 Interior Design Magazine Award for the «Umbrella» Chair
- 1993 Chrysler Award for Innovation and Design
- 1973 Special Prize at the Fourth International Lighting Design Competition for «Genesi?», Tokyo, Japan
- 1968 Honorable Mention at the Locarno Film Festival for the film «Irreversione», Locarno, Switzerland

Selected Articles:

- 2022 *Magic Mountain*, T Magazine
- 2021 *The Pope of Gloop*, NY Magazine
- 2021 *'Perfectie is onmenselijk. Fouten Horen Erbij' Ontwerper Gaetano Pesce*, NRC
- 2020 *At 80 years, Gaetano Pesce remains pioneer designer*, W Magazine
- 2019 *Gaetano Pesce Adds 'Performance Artist' His Portfolio*, New York Times
- 2017 *Gaetano Pesce: « Il y a des millions de Beautés »*, Figaro
- 2016 *Gaetano Pesce on Gender Inequality, Humor in Architecture, and the Element of Surprise*, BlouinArtinfo
- 2015 *Protagonisti Gaetano Pesce all'Expo «Il patriottismo è allegria e voglia di fare»*, La Repubblica ITA
- 2013 *Gaetano Pesce, The provocative Italian architect and designer*, Wall Street Journal
- 2012 *À New York l'Exhubérance de Gaetano Pesce*, AD France

- 2010 Q & A : Gaetano Pesce, Pen Japan
- 2003 *Rebuilding of the former World Trade Center Area*, Architext Design  
Pesce, Solarte  
Gaetano Pesce, DIID Industrial Design

Selected Bibliography:

- 2022 Out in the world with Gaetano Pesce, Museum Books  
Gaetano Pesce: The Complete Incoherence
- 2018 Gaetano Pesce: Maestà Tradita, Claudio Granzi
- 2017 Gaetano Pesce: réinventer le monde sensible
- 2013 Bracciodiferro: Gaetano Pesce - Alessandro Mendini, 1971 - 1975
- 2011 Gaetano Pesce, Area Magazine
- 2010 L. and M. Vignelli, Design is one  
Gaetano Pesce: pieces from a larger puzzle
- 2008 Pink Pavilion: Gaetano Pesce
- 2005 Il rumore del temp: Gaetano Pesce
- 2003 Materia e differenza
- 2002 Mod to Memphis - Design in color 1960-1980's
- 1992 Gaetano Pesce: Cinq Techniques Pour le Verre
- 1989 Gaetano Pesce: Archaisches Design

**Gaetano Pesce** is a leading Italian architect, film-maker, and theatre, furniture, lighting, and product designer who reconciled his interests in the fine arts with design in the 1960s, Pesce, like many of his fellow contemporaries associated with Radical Design, sought design solutions that did not conform to the standardized forms associated with mass manufacture and mass consumption.

He trained in architecture and industrial design from 1959 to 1965, during which he opened a studio in Padua and was a founding member of the fine arts-centred Group N.

In the late 1960s he attracted attention through innovative designs such as the Up armchairs first seen at the 1969 Milan Furniture Fair. Other notable designs in this anticonventional vein included the Sit Down chair (1975) inspired by the ideas of Pop artist Claes Oldenburg. His work was also included in the seminal 1972 Italy: The New Domestic Landscape exhibition curated by Emilio Ambasz at the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Other notable designs that have explored layers of meaning have included his melted plastic resin Samson and Delilah chairs and tables (1980), produced by Cassina, whose owner had done much to offer Pesce opportunities for experimentation since the 1960s. His multi- and interdisciplinary work was celebrated in an exhibition at the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris in 1996.

During his career, that spans four decades with commissions in architecture, urban planning, interior, exhibition and industrial design, Gaetano Pesce, the architect and designer, has conceived public and private projects in the United States, Europe, Latin America and Asia.

In all his work, he expresses his guiding principle: that modernism is less a style than a method for interpreting the present and hinting at the future in which individuality is preserved and celebrated.

Born in La Spezia, Italy, in 1939, Pesce studied Architecture at the University of Venice between 1958 to 1963 and was a participant in Gruppo N, an early collective concerned with programmed art patterned after the Bauhaus.

He taught architecture at the Institut d'Architecture et d'Etudes Urbaines in Strasbourg, France, for 28 years, at the Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh, at the Domus Academy in Milan, at the Polytechnic of Hong Kong, at the Architectural School of Sao Paulo and at the Cooper Union in New York City, where he has made his home since 1980, after living in Venice, London, Helsinki and Paris.

Pesce's work is featured in over 30 permanent collections of the most important museums in the world, such as MoMa of New York and San Francisco, Metropolitan Museum in New York, Vitra Museum in Germany, Victoria and Albert Museum in London, Pompidou Center and Musée des Arts Décoratifs of Louvre in Paris; he exhibits art in galleries world wide.

His award winning designs include the prestigious Chrysler Award for Innovation and Design in 1993, the Architektur and Wohnen Designer of the Year in 2006 and the Lawrence J. Israel Prize from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York in 2009.

Pesce experience has been global, his innovations consistently groundbreaking. Boundaries between art, design and industry are irrelevant to him, as art is most certainly not something created and put on a pedestal: art is a product, it is our creative response to the needs of the time we live in.

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