

Ligature Interview, March 2018

– Hello Hayo, how are you?

Fine, thanks!

– Can you introduce yourself?

I am Hayo Gebauer, I grew up in Lübeck, a mid-sized town in Northern Germany by the Baltic Sea. After graduating from school I moved to Braunschweig where I studied Industrial Design. In that time my interest for the international design scene began to grow, visiting Milan for the first time and seeing what other design schools were up to. I decided to complement my education at the Design Academy Eindhoven where I graduated in 2016. Since then I have been living and working in Berlin establishing my own design practice, working on self-initiated and commissioned projects.

– Where does your interest in design come from?

A great part of my interest in design comes from growing up in a household of an architect and an artist. Design and art have been a part of my life since childhood. A vivid memory is visiting the Galerie der Gegenwart in Hamburg with my parents. They were parking me in front of a TV displaying „Der Lauf der Dinge“ (by Fischli/Weiss) in a loop, while they were walking around the exhibition.

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– What are your biggest influences in design? Sorting things and organizing them seems to be a recurring subject, isn't it?

Organization is definitely one of the recurring topics in my work. I think in general there's a certain degree of playfulness in the objects that I like to explore. It can be in the form of a quirky fascination for order or the shape of an object resembling characteristics of an animal. I feel a need to include subtle hints of curiosity in mundane objects.

– What is the major challenge while designing and creating a new product?

Finding or working out the detail that makes the whole object and scaling it accordingly is a major challenge. Also I think finishing a project that has no deadline can be a major challenge. After many reiterations and variations of an object it is sometimes hard to say: „This is it, I'll leave it at that“.

– Would you like to talk about one of your recent projects?

Sure, I am going to reveal how my latest object called Sushi Lamp came about. On New Year's Eve in Berlin I was walking home through piles of burnt fireworks when I discovered these extruded brick looking things on the ground. They were actually firework casings that I have never seen before. I picked some up and later did some research. They are made with a method called „pyro mould“ a very dense extrusion of plant fibers. After filling and sanding, the object kind of evolved around this semi-ready-made brick.