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UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Melanie Liaw and Micaela Nardella Share Their Inspirations

The co-founders of interior design studio Duelle talk us through their latest project: a boutique for Italian luxury watercolor brand, A.Gallo Colors.

AUGUST 19, 2022



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For the design of the A.Gallo Colors boutique we were largely influenced by the town of Assisi and a selection of historical art and stationery shops throughout Italy. We have a passion for vintage sourcing, so, inspired by visits to Italian vintage markets and vintage vendors, we layered the interior with a selection of Italian lamps. For a contemporary touch, we collaborated with Italian ceramic artist Enrico Donadello to design and commission a series of bespoke pendant light shades and ceramic vessels especially for the boutique.

The Medieval Town of Assisi in the Region of Umbria



Walking along the streets of Assisi, where the shop is located, can transport you to another time. Dappled in warm light, its meandering narrow cobble streets, historical shop fronts and grandiose architecture are truly breathtaking. The region has a profound history of pigment-making and was a natural choice for our client, founder Alina Gallo, to root her brand of luxury watercolours. The location itself was a significant source of inspiration for our design, benefitting from a beautiful historic shopfront (1600s to early 1700s), and traditional hexagonal cement tile detailing from the early 1900s. An original inscription above the doorway cites an 11th century French poem by Chanson de Roland. The interior, by contrast, was imagined as warm and contemporary, incorporating modern materials while also honouring the town's medieval architecture and 17th century façade.

Antique Markets in Milan and Arezzo



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We often look to the past, seeking inspiration from iconic furniture design, that we can re imagine for our clients. As a personal passion we both love vintage markets. Abundant with treasured objects, they are an endless source of inspiration. For A.Gallo Colors we painstakingly sought out vintage lighting and mirrors. Here are a few of our favourite markets in Italy to visit:

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Alzaia Naviglio Grande, 4, 20144 Milano MI

Last Sunday of every month, along the canal Naviglio Grande

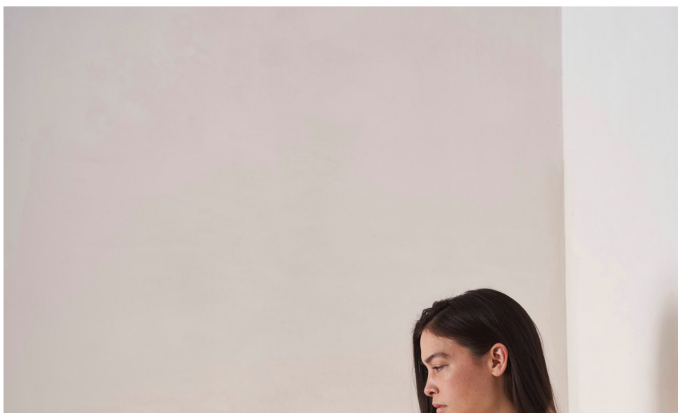
Fiera Antiquaria

Piazza Grande,

52100 Arezzo AR

First Sunday of every month

Contemporary Art from M.A.H Gallery in London





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Contemporary art is a constant inspiration for us; in particular, the collection curated by Laura Fulmine for her London based gallery M.A.H. We discovered Italian ceramic artist, Enrico Donadello through the gallery (as they represent his work in London), and the introduction led to us working closely with Enrico to create a series of bespoke ceramic pendant shades and vessels for A.Gallo.

Historical Art & Stationery Shops in Milan & Florence



Italy's historic stationery shops are stacked floor-to-ceiling with artisanal products, such as vibrant hand-marbled papers and notebooks, all displayed on late 19th/early 20th century patinated timber shop fittings. For the shopfit of A.Gallo, we worked closely with a local fabricator to develop an aesthetic that referenced the joinery of these classic art supply shops, through a clean and minimal approach.

A few historical stationery shops that inspired us for A.Gallo are:

Fratelli Bonvini 1909

Via Tagliamento 1, 20139 Milano

Pettinaroli 1881

Via Brera, 4

20121 Milano

Giulio Giannini 1856

STUDIO in P.zza Pitti 22 - Via dei Velluti 1R

50125, Firenze

The A.Gallo Product Line & Raw Materials



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There is something quite magical about the array of colourful raw pigments in their natural rock and powder form, before they are transformed by Alina Gallo and her team into the artist materials as we know them. The colours really are inspiration all their own. In response to these jewel-like blown glass vessels of pigment, we opted to create an understated gallery-like design, devoting much of the display to the story-telling of the A.Gallo product line.

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