

Piero Fornasetti

One Hundred Years

on show from 9th May to 15th June 2014
Monday to Sunday 11.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.
at 10 Corso Como Seoul 3F



Piero Fornasetti

Piero Fornasetti was a Milanese painter, sculptor, interior decorator, engraver of books and a creator of more than 13,000 products. In terms of variety of decoration, Fornasetti's production of objects and furniture is one of the largest of the 20th century.

Fornasetti is celebrated as being among the most original creative talents of the twentieth century. During his career he created a visual vocabulary that is instantly recognizable and unceasingly engaging. Fornasetti designed a magical world, saturated in image and colour and filled with whimsy and wit.

Biography

- 1913 Piero Fornasetti is born in Milan, Italy.
- 1930 Piero entered Brera Academy to study drawing.
- 1932 Expelled from Brera for insubordination.
- 1933 First artwork shown as part of a student exhibition at Milano University. Also this year, a series of scarves in printed silk was proposed to the Milan Triennale but was rejected. It was during this occasion that Piero's work was noted by Gio Ponti.
- 1935 At the sixth Triennale in Milan, Piero exhibited, among other things, a decorative bronze and ceramic frieze in an archaic style.
- 1940 Piero met Gio Ponti and went on to design 'The Lunar' illustrated Calendar book for him.
- 1942 Created frescoes for the Palazzo Bo in Padova.
- 1943-1946 Went into exile in Switzerland.
- 1947 Exhibited a series of motifs for ceramics at the Triennale (commissioned again by Gio Ponti).

- 1950 Decorated the interior of the San Remo Casino.
 - 1951 Completed the first example of a complete interior for the Casa Lucano in collaboration with Gio Ponti. Exhibited his 'Architettura' furniture during the Ninth Triennale. Created the 'Palladiana' chest of drawers.
 - 1952 Took part in the interior decoration of the Andrea Doria ocean liner, designing the first class areas.
 - 1955-1958 Created the Stanza Metafisica; thirty-two decorative panels that could be arranged into an interior environment.
 - 1970 Founded the Bibliofigli Gallery in Milan with several friends.
 - 1979 Death of Gio Ponti.
 - 1980 Design store Themes and Variations opens in London, reviving interest in Fornasetti's work.
 - Early 1987 Piero's first book project is in collaboration with Patrick Mauriès and illustrates his collected works.
- 1988 Death of Piero Fornasetti in Milan, during minor hospital treatment.

Barnaba Fornasetti

An abundance of important motifs have emerged from the Fornasetti archive thanks to Barnaba's skillful tenacity and dedication. The Fornasetti Atelier is currently managed by Barnaba, who has successfully maintained in-house production, revived as well as reinterpreted his father's designs. Barnaba also works in collaboration with specialised companies who are entrusted to produce licensed products under the Fornasetti mark. The Fornasetti legacy has been secured thanks to Barnaba Fornasetti's commitment to projects designed to articulate his father's oeuvre. And, most importantly, the extraordinary visual language of Fornasetti is as active and strong as ever.

Biography

- 1950 Barnaba Fornasetti is born in Milan, Italy.
- 1954 Created his first design; the 'Foglia d'Ortensia' tray with Piero Fornasetti.
- 1968 Enters the Brera Fine Arts Academy.
- 1969 Imprisoned during a student demonstration in Milan.
- 1969-1971 Collaboration with the textile designer Ken Scott.
- 1971 Youth magazine project for Mondadori.
- 1971-1972 Creative Director of the underground magazine 'Get Ready'.
- 1974 Leaves Milan for the Tuscan countryside where he refurnishes farmhouses.
- 1982 Returns to Milan and begins collaborating with his father.
- 1985 "Creates 'Architettura' with Piero Fornasetti.
- 1988 Following the death of his father, Barnaba assumes control of the family business.
- 1989 Reintroduces some of the most famous objects made by Piero Fornasetti and begins work on new prototype products.
- 1989-1990 Introduces new products such as the 'Dedicato a Piero e Gio' cabinet, 'Tema e Variazioni', 'Boomerang' desk and Rugs for Tisca.
- 1990-1998 Opens new collaborations with other licensee companies and designs new objects with motifs taken from the Fornasetti archive.
- 1990-2005 Launches several fabric collections inspired by Piero Fornasetti's drawings.

- 1991 Collaborates on the first monograph on Piero Fornasetti 'Designer of Dreams' published by Thames & Hudson.
- 1991-1992 Collaborates on Piero Fornasetti exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Palazzo Ruspoli in Rome.
- 1992 Designs the 'Notte a Gerusalemme' installation for Abitare il Tempo.
- 1992-2005 Undertakes many design collaborations and introduces new Fornasetti products. These include; neckties, ceramic tiles, umbrellas, lightings, upholstered furniture, porcelains and radiators.
- 1993-1994 collaborates with Laurence Steele for Fornasetti fashion collections.
- 1996 Opens a showroom on via Manzoni in Milan.
- 1998 Christies in Los Angeles auction Fornasetti artworks.
- 1999 Introduces the Trumeau 'Millennium's end'.
- 2002 Designs Tête-à-Tête home collection with architect and designer Nigel Coates.
- 2003 Touring Fornasetti exhibition opens in the U.S.A. in collaboration with the Italian Institute of Culture.
- 2004 Opens a Guest Apartment in the historical Fornasetti home.
- 2005 Launch of the book 'Fornasetti, Conversation with Philippe Starck' and the Fornasetti decorated Eros chair from Kartell 'Identità Violata'.
- 2006 Decorates the restaurant bar L'Eclaireur in Paris with Armand and Martine Hadida.
- 2007 Collaborates with Cole & Son wallpapers and Roubini Rugs.
- 2007 Designs the chest-desk, re-invention of the chest of drawers "Grand Coromandel"
- 2007 Collaborates with Roubini Rugs for the Fornasetti rug collection
- 2007 E Barnaba Fornasetti designs the cabinet 'Kiss' exclusively for Nilufar Gallery presented at Design Miami Basel
- 2007 Exhibition 'The tie loosens its knot' at Luisa Delle Piane Gallery in Milan.
- 2008 Book launch of 'Fornasetti alla Scala' by Vittoria Crespi Morbio.
- 2008 Exhibitions 'Fornasetti rugs by Roubini Rugs' and 'Ionic obsession' at Carla Sozzani Gallery in Milan.
- 2009 Launch of the book Fornasetti: l'artista alchimista e la bottega fantastica (2 volumes) published by Electa with text by Mariuccia Casadio and edited by Barnaba Fornasetti.
- 2009 Opening of the new Fornasetti shop and exhibition space at Corso Matteotti, Milan.
- 2010 Launch of new Fornasetti vase collection by Bitossi Ceramiche 'Variazioni sul tema'.
- 2010 Presents the collection of furniture "Litomatrice" at Nilufar Gallery, Milan.
- 2010 Presents the collection "Fornasetti Profumi per la Casa" by United Perfumes Ltd.
- 2010 Launch of the english edition of the book "Fornasetti the complete Universe" published by Rizzoli USA with text by Mariuccia Casadio and edited by Barnaba Fornasetti.
- 2010 The 'Black & White' one-off piece by Barnaba Fornasetti has been sold in the auction 'Design' at Phillips de Pury New York for \$47.500
- 2011 Presents a collection of unique pieces inside the exhibition "Atomi" at Nilufar Gallery, Milan.
- 2011 Presents the collection "Armistizio" at Spazio Fornasetti during Salone del Mobile 2011 in Milan.
- 2011 Presents in Paris at L'Eclaireur and at the Fornasetti Milan Store the mirrors collection 'Il Riflesso Magico'.

- 2011 Takes part as guest of honour at the exhibition Qubique at the Tempelhof in Berlin.
- 2011 Sets up the exhibition on Fornasetti and the theme of 'beverage' at the Galerie Ephémère Epokhé. At the same time he collaborates with the winery Maison Joseph Drouhin.
- 2012 Presents at the Fornasetti Milan Store during the Salone del Mobile 2012 the 'Buffet'.
- 2013 Presents the exhibition "Autoritratto di un centenario" in Milan, a collection of drawings and prints by Piero Fornasetti, to celebrate the centenary of his birth.
- 2013 Presents in his shop and exhibition space in Milan the "Sublime Tabacco" exhibition, showcasing hundreds of smoking accessories taken from the Fornasetti Archive and shown to the public for the first time.
- 2013 Shows the new exhibition in his store in Milan "Il Piatto Forte", a selection of vintage plates from '50s and '60s, to let the public vote which set to re-edit for the occasion.
- 2013 Celebrates the centenary of Piero Fornasetti's birth during Salone del Mobile 2013 introducing the "Peccato originale" oval table and the new side cabinet "Buffet Frutto del peccato".
- 2013 Curates the first and unprecedented retrospective in Milan (or, as he likes to call it, "retroperspective") on Piero Fornasetti at the Triennale Design Museum, featuring more than a thousand objects from the Fornasetti Archive.