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IMAGERY OF  
REFLECTIVE SURFACES

**DANIELE BASSO**

April 23 - May 24, 2015

**NEW YORK CITY**

529 W. 20th Street  
9th Floor

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# LIGHT SCULPTURES

*“...through light, folds are the embodiment of change, movement, life itself. They collect stories, experiences and events that make up reality as we know it. A metaphor of crises turning into opportunities, unveiling the many facets of reality, which appears as one, but is actually manifold”.*

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*“...They use the modern language of new digital technologies and the Net to reveal the emotional instability of contemporary society... they represent the search for our identity and place in the world!...”*

*“...By describing individuals and objects via the folds of life running through them, they become both unique and iconic, an expression of a precise construction of the self, as we are before a mirror, where we take it upon ourselves to become protagonists... connected by our awareness that our happiness does not rely on events, yet our reaction to them!”*

# LES PLIS DE LA VIE

*The corner edge, physical expression of discontinuity, is the universal symbol of change. Space and Time shrink, touch, and separate. Nothing is as it was. All protections fail. The hollow comes forward and absence becomes presence. It seems impossible to make decisions. And eventually we shall see Newness coming through. Decision-making paralysis and absence of prospects blur the innermost urge of acting instinctively. Anxiety propagates in society. An intimate and collective crisis is going on, grows within us and spreads. It is the fear of disappointing the expectations at the origin of progress. It is unquestionably a human issue. It is the tool Nature gave us to evolve: the destructive thrust prelude to the creative energy. The faster we adapt to Newness, the less the Pain. But a huge amount of awareness is necessary to overcome imposed limits and conditionings. A scream against the sky sets our vital energy free. In a moment, all has changed. The crisis is over. In that moment we have grown up, and all mankind with us. Reflected in the mirror, we find out that we are the mankind. The future is in the hands of each one of us all.*



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**LES PLIS DE LA VIE**

*Mirror-Finish Stainless Steel*  
40 x 43 cm, h 160 cm - 40 kg

# ACHILL

*A noble and powerful figure effortlessly gliding in the air, owning the sky, high above reality... This is the Hawk of Achill, inspired by an ancient Celtic myth, a guide leading to love for man and nature, a symbol of enlightenment, creativity, truth and experience connecting us to the spiritual world... I see it as the embodiment of the power to glance at things from afar, from above, while still being able to pore on details closely and swooping in on meaningful matter when required. It represents freedom from any conditioning in the ability to assess, the courage to enact principles and beliefs, always doing what is right for us in any condition, even in the most difficult and complex situations, in order to solve any problems fast and accurately with no shortsighted doubts and uncertainties, managing our own value and life in absolute freedom and in harmony with the world.*



**ACHILL**  
*Mirror-Finish Stainless Steel*  
150 x 93 cm, h 120 cm - 64 Kg

# WE HAVE A DREAM

*“There exist places where we know we are slaves since our birth; elsewhere we are slaves too, but unaware of it. Absolute freedom does not exist in any society. It is an idea to nurture, an objective to pursue. A value that, while respecting the others, society itself and all the individuals therein must defend at all costs. Should we forget this, we will lose our humanity and with it our dignity and our right to be free men.”*

## **THE HISTORY OF THE SCULPTURE**

When visiting Atlanta, Martin Luther King’s hometown, a universal icon of the peace movement for the civil rights of minorities in the USA, I decided to create a work of art to ponder on everybody’s equality before institutions and society. Looking for a universally symbolic event testifying the bestiality of slavery opposed to the humanity of those who fought without violence, only a question was clear: “Why opting for an event after the birth to represent a right that exists as of birth itself?”

Birth is the only time when we are all equal and free. In this artwork no part abuses the other. No clashes, no fights. Here it is no longer a question of racial equality; here we are faced with the universal issue of personal and social freedom. This “Child” is born in chains. As us all. A representation of the more or less conscious compromises we have to accept to live in a society. Of the personal and collective difficulties we encounter to shape out our individuality among the others.

We are reflected in the mirroring plies and corners, manifestations of life change, and the many aspects of reality, and feel all community members. United into rights and duties that the freedom require. A work that supports equality not as yielded by a part of the society to the other part, but as an Objective Reality! Where the problem is overcome in the awareness of being all slaves of all, but also free from Birth. A universal experience. A common, shared, intuitive zero where to start to build a better future for our children and for their children too.



**WE HAVE A DREAM**

*Hand Mirror Polished White Bronze*

*45 x 29, h 29 cm*



# VERTICAL REFLECTION COLLECTION

*The most exciting cities today are hopelessly vertical. Vertical emotions of daring shapes in concrete, glass and steel, where nature struggles to the surface, living creatures climbing great heights to survive... "Vertical Reflection", a collection of steel, felt and wood, investigates vertical modernity meeting horizontal tradition, fast-paced fashion versus the paralysis of conventions, the boundary between private and public dimensions, trends and beliefs. "A Vertical Reflection of thoughts and hints that metaphorically mark the stages of man's journey in search for the meaning of life. At first Chaos (Colour, Identity): surface, questions. Then Order (Shape, Choice): research, commitment,. Then again Complexity (Matter, Substance): answers, individual certainties". This artistic creation is an encouragement to reach awareness and test our limits, which represent the evolutionary heritage of society as a whole, trace the boundaries of change and disclose the future of mankind, defining the meaning of life and our own existence.*

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## **HEIGHT: VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL DIMENSIONS**

Heights arouse awe, an innate sense of devotion that comes from our childhood, when we looked up to our parents. It is the first and foremost tangible proof of power and submission, a natural pathway between Heaven and Earth, humanity and divinity.

This collection focuses on the crossway between the natural and supernatural dimensions, leading us to the present, where a father crosses over to his child, recognizes him and the Child becomes a Man. Horizontal and vertical lines are basic references where the emotions we feel spring forth from.

## **CAOS: COLOUR, IDENTITY**

Colour covers all surfaces, it is a feeling, an impression.

Hence the use of rich, pure colours and the obsessive repetition of a single volume - apparently working on modularity, crushing variety, through the human gesture of a brush stroke – expresses joy and emotion, to claim that individuals are only part of society through their own identities, which make each city multiethnic, cosmopolitan and unique. Personal identity embodies fondness and memories that are powerfully conveyed by the concept of Home through warm, emotionally-charged felt, a symbol of personal cohesion, sheltering everybody's soul and love.

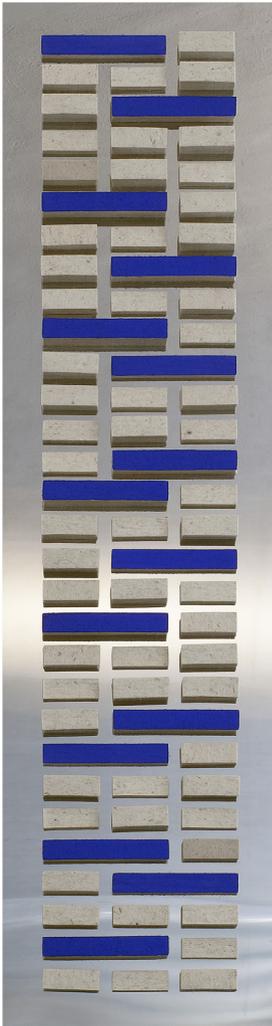
## **WOOL FELT**

Biella wool felt introduces the inspiration of Italy, fashion and Made in Italy, as well as the concept of commodity as an occasion for communication among various populations all over the world via man's basic needs. It is a natural antidote to loneliness in the urban setting, a metaphor of a love shelter where homesickness finds a place housing the fondest memories of our dear ones. Enriched by colour, warm, emotionally-charged felt conveys the individuality and variety that make up humanity, even in the most artificial and industrial settings.

**HK - 1 BLUE**

**HK - 2 HARLEQUIN**

**HK - 3 RED**



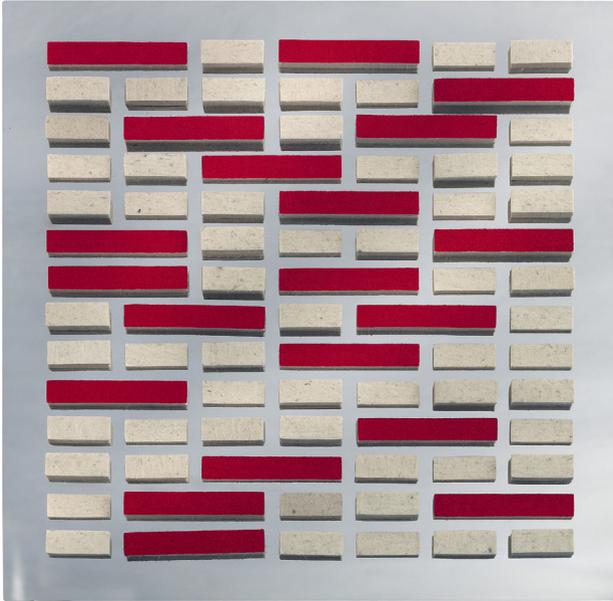
**HK - 1 BLUE**

*Mirror-Finish Stainless Steel and Felt*  
40 x 160 cm



**HK - 2 HARLEQUIN**

*Mirror-Finish Stainless Steel and Felt*  
40 x 120 cm



**HK - 3 RED**

*Mirror-Finish Stainless Steel and Felt*  
80 x 80 cm

**ORDER: SHAPE, CHOICE**

Shape moulds matter, organizes space, models boundaries. It is discussion, communication, clash, a choice between apparent opposites: man and nature, softness and hardness, interior and exterior, dark and light. It is research, pondering and commitment for each of us to find our own place in the world and express our identity. It embodies the taste of modern society, so the softness of hand-worked felt interacts with wood, nature and the environment, expressing the developing world and the ensuing development of men, partially conscious of their direction, yet determined to move forward.

**WOOD**

It represents Nature as apparently opposed to man and human action, and the lessons yet to be learned. Experience makes it a friendly material you can rely on, an embodiment of memory and human history, a matter preserving traditional and cultural human values, wisdom and knowledge. It makes time meaningful in its slow yet relentless flow, and survives man to pass on our message beyond life.

**HK - 4 WALNUT / NATURAL****HK - 5 OLIVE / GREEN & PINK**



**HK - 4 WALNUT / NATURAL**  
*Mirror-Finish Stainless Steel, Felt and Walnut*  
80 x 80 cm



### **COMPLEXITY: MATTER, SUBSTANCE**

Matter is substance, the essence and meanings arising from research, with unavoidably partial results, just like volumes jutting out of the mirrored surface, in an endless game of doubles between real and virtual, known and unknown... while still being solid, reliable and grounded. Matter represents self-awareness, being aware of our limits. Abilities, skills and knowledge are joined in a 3D experience, in a complex dimension where the whole is bigger than the sum of its parts, where we find our place in the bosom of society and establish relationships with other individuals who recognize and accept us. Matter is wisdom, a place we can call Home, life lived to the fullest.

### **MIRRORED SURFACES**

Looking in the mirror is an age-old innate gesture that has accompanied human development, an intimate moment which conveys getting ready before making the scene in society, whatever our culture. It refers to our identity and conveys the importance of imagination in life and in making our own future as we wish it to be. We are all equal before a mirror, driven towards an eerie unsubstantial dimension suspended between dream and reality, seeking our new meaning of life.



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**HK - 6 SHUFFLED WOODS**

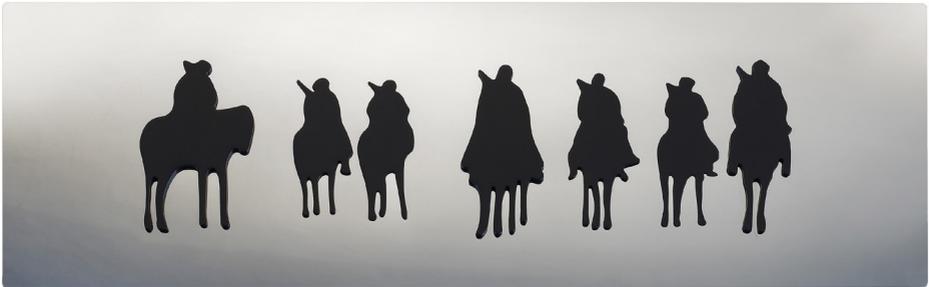
*Mirror-Finish Stainless Steel and different Woods*

160 x 40 cm

# RUSSIAN ATMOSPHERE

*“...it is an allegorical image of man and mankind, our loneliness even when we are in a group of people...”*

Artwork made for the Saint Petersburg Design Week, where the artist Daniele Basso was a Special Guest in 2014, it is inspired by an image of the early 20th century, where a haggard bunch of soldiers ride their horses in the icy snow of a wintry landscape, it is an allegorical image of man and mankind, our loneliness even when we are in a group of people, because we master technology yet we are at a loss before the endless vastness of nature, the mystery of life and the depth of emotions. When reflected in a mirrored surface, we are thrown into the deep chasm of our thoughts, suspended between dream and reality, proud yet hesitant before endless time...



**RUSSIAN ATMOSPHERE**  
*Mirror-Finish Stainless Steel and Wood*  
170 x 58 cm  
120 x 40 cm



# WEB ICON COLLECTION

*“... just like memory, that matches words  
and concepts with faces, my portraits  
imbue faces with the power of ideas  
and the results achieved by the subjects,  
conveying their full emotions ...”*

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Overwhelmed by the potential of the Net, we need to learn how to interact with digital technology. We risk drifting into collective virtual isolation. However, the Web Revolution has been the most outstanding event in the history of mankind since the invention of money. My “Web Icon Collection” intends to celebrate the dream of the Net as a universal tool to reclaim our ideas and freedom of expression. The portraits of the individuals who made this dream come true are therefore turned into pop icons. When we look at ourselves through their images we become aware of our leading role in managing this extraordinary tool, that can connect us all as never before or shatter mankind into many small unstable units, at war with one another. We can make our own choice and the Net will independently draw its logical conclusions, shaping the future of mankind.



**APPLE**

*Mirror-Finish Stainless and Acrylic on Wood*  
58 x 58 cm



**FACEBOOK**

*Mirror-Finish Stainless and Acrylic on Wood*  
58 x 58 cm



**MICROSOFT**

*Mirror-Finish Stainless and Acrylic on Wood*

*R 29 cm*

*“...We are all the same in front of a mirror, suspended between dream and reality, a metaphor of contemporary society confronted with its own wishes and seeking the new meaning of life...”*

*”...Looking in the mirror is an innate gesture, an intimate moment which conveys getting ready before making the scene, whether on stage or in society. When we make up the look we want to show...”*

*“...The Mirror is a simple object found in all cultures, unchanged over time yet rich in symbolical and emotional contents. It refers to identity, ethics and responsibility in making future as we wish it to be...”*



# DANIELE BASSO

## *Artistic Biography*



*"In the mirror we are all alike, all suspended between dream and reality. Beyond their function, my mirroring artworks are reflections on the contemporary. Unfinished thoughts longing for a personal meaning..."*

**2010**\_His mirror-finish artworks are on display in Turin, Naples, Verona and Milan and He realises the exhibit "Dolce Vita" for the "Federico Fellini Foundation" (Milan and NYC).

**2011**\_ His sculptures "Kryste" featuring at the 54th Venice Biennale (Luca Beatrice) and at the Italian Pavilion in Turin (Vittorio Sgarbi). His sculpture WE=WALL becomes part of the permanent exhibition of Portofino's Museo del Parco.

**2012**\_AD, Interni, MarieClaire and Domus talk about him and he has his first personal exhibition the Rivabella Art Gallery of Lugano (CH).

**2013**\_He is invited to the 55th Venice Biennale (event "OverPlay") with his sculpture "Les Plies de la Vie". During the summer, he holds exhibitions in Forte dei Marmi (personal), Monte-Carlo (Hotel de Paris), Bologna (CUBO Unipol), and Milan. In November he is invited on show at Pontifical University of Seraphicum in Vatican/Rome.

**2014**\_He is in Dubai at Nakkash Gallery, at nhow hotel in Milan with solo exhibition "Dark Light Reflections", at Hermitage in Monte-Carlo during F1 Grand Prix and Special Guest at Saint Petersburg Design Week.

**2015**\_In April, his exhibition at Ca D'Oro Art Gallery in NYC with the Collection "Vertical Reflection" and the sculpture "We Have a Dream", and on show at Expo Milano 2015 with the sculpture "Coke It's Me" for Coca-Cola to celebrate 100 Years of his iconic Contour Bottle.

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