

FUNCTION

Press release Milan 2011 brought to you by Laikingland

Laikingland investigates FUNction with Tord Boontje, Atelier Ted Noten and AtelierNL

Function is the expected activity of a person or thing. A doorbell sounds to announce the arrival of a visitor, a clock is made to tell the time and a jewellery box houses your prized possessions.

Laikingland investigates **FUNction** as the unexpected activity for which their beautifully crafted kinetic objects are employed.

Tord Boontje's doorbell performs a cacophony of sound and movement, a clock by AtelierNL invites the viewer to tell their story in 50 different languages and Atelier Ted Noten's jewellery box houses a robot arm that protects and presents a magical ring.

Laikingland will present **FUNction** during the international furniture fair in Milan (12-17 April 2011) in Ventura Lambrate.

Location:

Ventura Lambrate, Via Ventura 6, 20134 Milan, Italy

Opening hours: Press Preview: Monday, 11 April, 3 pm - 8 pm General Opening Hours: Tuesday, 12 April - Sunday, 17 April, 10 am - 8 pm VenturaLambrate Opening Night: Wednesday, 13 April, 7 pm - 11 pm **with drinks and humour!**

We would be delighted to meet you in Milan.

Best wishes

Nick Regan and Martin Smith

Laikingland Co-Founders

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Cacophony Bell (maquette) by Tord Boontje with Laikingland

“Through the gap in the shutters, I can see him coming up the path, he is past the gate already. Quick, can I hide? Why, would I? Should I not be glad that he is coming? What if...

Too late, I can see his hand reaching out for the buzzer, I know I have only a few seconds left.

The finger presses the button, the wireless connection is made, I look up at the ceiling.

The hammer on wheels is released, with hesitation it starts to move along the fine metal wire track. It picks up speed and rushes down the first steep slope of the track, it crashes into a steel watering can, BANG. Without slowing down the hammer keeps moving towards a glass bottle, the sound of impact is a glassy PING. Onwards through the steep corners towards the dried leaves, the doll, the tin can, CRUSH THUMP TING and finally heading towards the bell, where it ends with a loud CLANG.

Although, it does not quite end there, the weight of the hammer now tips the balance of the precariously hung track and the whole thing starts to tilt over. Slowly the hammer on wheels starts to move again, exploring new forces of gravity. Giving in to a new sliding motion as the track changes shape again and the hammer reaches it's starting point again where it comes to rest.

The noise, the cacophony is still echoing through the house, while I wait for him to press the buzzer again.”

Tord Boontje, March 2011.



Story Time by AtelierNL with Laikingland

A wonderful wall mounted time-piece that invites the viewer to celebrate 50 years of the Salone del Mobile by telling their story in 50 different languages.



The New Jewellery Box by Atelier Ted Noten with Laikingland

The New Jewellery box houses a robot arm that protects and presents a single magical ring.

About Laikingland:

Laikingland is a creative collaboration, based in both the UK and The Netherlands, who design and manufacture beautifully crafted kinetic objects that engage, and evoke a sense of play and nostalgia.

The company was founded in 2008 and is built upon a life long friendship between artist, Martin Smith and engineer, Nick Regan. Since it's inception Laikingland has specialised in producing highly crafted limited editions, working closely with invited artists and designers to realise their kinetic ideas.

Alongside their products, Laikingland also regularly carry out projects to create one-off, special edition and exclusive kinetic objects and displays.

The Laikingland product range is available in many of the world's leading museums and design stores. Clients include the Tate Gallery, Mint, The Frozen Fountain, Moss and the Conran Shop.

All our work is produced in small batches or limited editions and is hand assembled in the North of England by our team of highly skilled craftsmen, artisans and jewellers.

About Laikingland's co-founders:

Martin Smith is the Creative Director of Laikingland. He lives and works in West Yorkshire, UK. He has 16 years experience as a practicing Artist, with work ranging from small kinetic devices to large-scale gallery commissions and architectural interventions.

Nick Regan is the Engineering Director of Laikingland. He was born and raised in West Yorkshire, UK, but now lives and works in Utrecht, the Netherlands. He has 15 years product development and engineering management experience in the global automotive industry. He has worked with many of the world's leading automotive companies in the UK, Europe, USA and Asia.