

Buio

Ingo Maurer

Yves Klein

Réne Magritte

John Cage

Achille Castiglioni

Alexander Calder

Fausto Melotti

Utopias of Light

Writing and designing continue to be
a mystery for me.

A primordial force that is triggered,
and that I have no full control over.

Reality is there, it doesn't really
interest me: it already exists.

And so I rebuild it in my own way,
telling of worlds that don't exist.

“Buio” is an exhibition of unique projects, but also of future creations, possible and impossible.

I treated light starting from its negation.

Artificial light reveals itself in an original, playful, amazing way, as if it was for the first time.

The creations appear as glimmers in total darkness, feeble presences in an absolute black setting.

They are works of free fantasy, negations of functionality and rationality, contradictions, allegories, utopias.

Artists, poets and musicians have influenced my career as a lamp inventor. I therefore built and selected some prototypes, tributes to my masters, ideal continuations of their poetics.

In some cases, these utopias are nostalgic gestures, the desire to go back to creating lamps as I did in the mid-1980s in a very small workshop, assembling parts that I then exhibited in a tiny shop window.

Sometimes, making light is just a story.

In the end, it is not dark yet.

It was clear from the instant Nasir crossed paths with Davide for the first time in Köln in 1999 that the light displayed by Davide's aspirations and creations was something to behold. His constant pursuit of capturing and corralling that which is invisible and yet makes the world visible was one of the purest forms of curiosity and passion he had encountered.

Davide's mind is one which we rarely gain access and find, one who explores all facets and forms of ideas and pursues them with relentless perfection. Since that first encounter, Davide has not stopped his mission; he challenges himself to rediscover, question, and push forward.

Buio is not a collection of results but a set of ideas, thoughts, potential dead ends that slowly unravel the maze, a creative mind's inspiration. Davide Groppi is not a creator of light but a savant of tenebrism in the real world, a curator and composer of edge, the line between darkness and light.

Buio may be a world of fantasy, negation, and exploration for Davide. Yet, as we dig deeper, it becomes a world of desire, hope, and optimism for those who allow themselves to understand Davide Groppi. The most notable acts of passion are those that present their fragility, and vulnerability and here, we stand in the presence of a creator bearing his innermost desires, shining for all to see.



A tribute to René Magritte and
Surrealism.

A lighted and magically suspended bulb
appears in space, so real that it leaves no
doubt: it certainly represents an object
called a light bulb.

But the title states otherwise.

The caption challenges the criterion of
equivalence between similarity and
affirmation and tells us that the light bulb
of this first utopia is only the
representation of a tangible object that
has nothing to do with it.

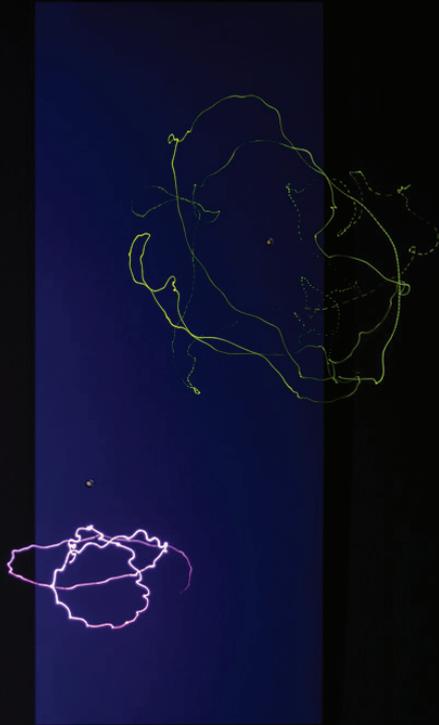
Ceci n'est pas une ampoule



My favorite color, the color of light.

A 35mm slide dynamically welcomes
Yves Klein's blue.

Almost Blue



This utopia is dedicated to Ingo Maurer.

I tried to bring Ingo's imagination to life by celebrating all of his poetic lightness.



The celebration of the silence of John Cage.

The perception of the light source is cancelled out in favour of a light suspended in the void.

Once again, a work on absolute light.

Silenzio. 4' 33"



In this utopia nothing is drawn.

Simple aggregation of electrical parts
available on the market.

A small ready-made, almost a declaration
of non-proliferation of forms.

Thank you, Achille.

The image is a dark, abstract composition. In the center, a bright, glowing sphere is suspended by thin lines. To its left, a blue, disc-like object is also suspended. The background is mostly black, with a large, curved, light-colored shape on the left side that appears to be a wall or a large object. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the sphere and the blue disc against the dark background.

The synthesis of Alexander Calder
acrobatics.

Diffused light and reflected light.

Dancing in the Dark



The poetics of Fausto Melotti in this
lightweight utopia of light.

African Night

It all started in a small laboratory in the historical centre of the Italian town of Piacenza during the late 1980's. Davide Groppi was inventing and producing his first lamps and decided simply to use his own name for the name of the company. Over time, creative independence and passionate, unconventional management have allowed him to develop his own brand of original and unique products, currently distributed the world over. **Simplicity, weightlessness, emotion, creative invention and amazement** are the fundamental components of each lamp or lighting project designed by Davide Groppi. **Davide Groppi creations come about through the need to give life to something that is necessary or significant.**

The things that inspire these ideas are works of art, ready made objects, magic, the desire to make things with his hands or simply the urge to play and have fun with light. **Light, for Davide Groppi, is a wonderful way to seduce and excite.** He has always worked with a faithful group of collaborators who help him to develop ideas and bring them to fruition. Over the course of many years of

experience, we have developed products and shows in collaboration with companies specialising in design. There have been many international projects the world over, including the illumination of houses, stores and museums.

Davide Groppi has been particularly active in the area of hospitality (hotels and restaurants). Some of the most famous chefs have chosen our lighting solutions for their venues, including Albert Adrià, Massimo Bottura, Massimiliano Alajmo, Moreno Cedroni, Carlo Cracco, Gennaro Esposito, Giancarlo Perbellini, Ciccio Sultano and others. Davide Groppi has been recognised for excellence by the press and awards. We mention the Edida Award, in 2011, for the Sampei lamp; the Design Plus Award, in 2014, for the Neuro lamp; the two awards at the 23rd edition of the ADI Compasso d'Oro Awards for the Nulla lamp and for the Sampei lamp; the Mention of Honour Award at the 24th edition of the ADI Compasso D'Oro for rechargeable battery lamp Tetatet. The ADI Compasso d'Oro Award is considered the oldest and most prestigious recognition for design in the world.



davide groppi × LUMINAIRE