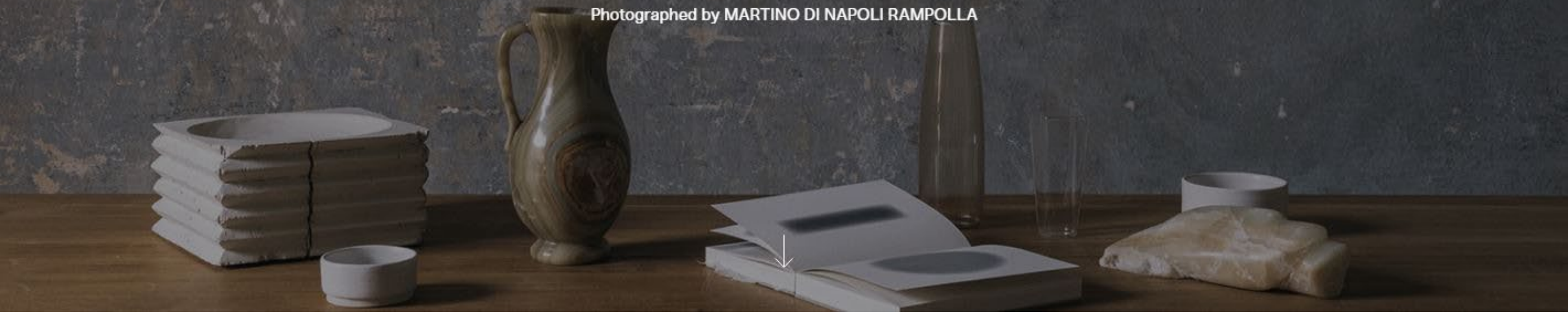


Design, Studio

Perception and Change Numeroventi

Written by SHEILA LAM

Photographed by MARTINO DI NAPOLI RAMPOLLA



“When our contractors started working on the old walls I had to stop them. ‘No, no, no!’ And tell them not to cover it up,” Martino said as we walked through the dusty hallway around scaffolding and paint cans. “They thought I was crazy.” But as my fingers ran across the texture of recovered pasts, while he spoke of the future of Numeroventi, I knew his decision was the only one. I insisted, “it’s perfect.”

On the top floor of Palazzo Galli Tassi along Via dei Pandolfini in the heart of Florence, Martino di Napoli Rampolla and his team of creatives have recently completed their latest restoration. A suite of sunlit rooms and an accompanying gallery space join the existing apartments below in a reimagined vision for the artist residency.

When I arrived in Florence in early March, Numeroventi was a full-time residency focused on welcoming emerging and established talents from around the world to the Tuscan capital. Painters, sculptors, musicians, and photographers whose work often graces the walls of the former governor’s palace gave energy to its halls and breath to its court. But, barely a week on from my arrival, our world shifted on its axis and everything changed when the novel coronavirus hit. Time passed slowly, operations there and the world over quieted, and Florentines received their city at the height of tourist season without throngs of visitors for the first time in ages.



Lamp MOON F by DAVIDE GROPPPI and White Artwork by CARLA CASCALES