

Thomas Fuchs / Milan

Thomas Fuchs is an American designer based in New York who specialises in lighting, glassware and tableware. His work ranges from elaborate chandeliers that sell for five-figure sums to affordable home accessories reaching a wider clientele.

According to Thomas Fuchs, there is no meaningful design without emotion. Maintaining that good design should have an internal effect on its owners, he created his high-end Otium lighting line a decade ago that was primarily available to architects and interior designers. After joining forces with his partner Michou Mahtani, a former global brand director at Louis XIII P&M, he launched the more accessible brand Thomas Fuchs Creative in 2011 bringing handmade products to the retail market. One of his latest projects is a collection of drinking glasses called Foxwear. The thread that unites these diverse projects is the desire of Fuchs to combine classical aesthetics with modern twists, such as skull patterns and lighter motifs like butterflies and bamboos. Working across his portfolio of products has involved the 51-year-old American designer travelling to Italy often, particularly Murano, where his hand-blown chandeliers are made, as well as to Agra in India to find a craftsman capable of working with white Makrana marble on his line of home accessories.

What techniques are you experimenting with?

I've been creating multiple glass objects of colour combinations and finishes, smashing them all into pieces and then incorporating them into a single object. This led to our Cloud glasses collection for TFC, which is sold in Barneys New York.



You are known for your classical aesthetic with a modern twist. Can you give us some examples of this?

Being a big fan of classical proportions doesn't mean that you can't have fun with the end results. For Otium, I've made a lamp called Egiziano (Italian for Egyptian) and even though its form and proportions are classic, I've added snazzy colours and bubbles into the glass. For Thomas Fuchs Creative (TFC), I've created a skillfully hand-carved champagne bucket, made from the finest Makrana marble – the same marble used to build the Taj Mahal, but with smiling skull faces on the handles.

Where do you like going shopping?

We [Michou Mahtani and I] appreciate the great quality and rebirth of the aesthetic direction of Bally (8 Via Monte Napoleone, 20121 Milan, T. +39 02 7600 8406). La Rinascente (Piazza Duomo 20121 Milan, T. +39 02 88 521) is a great department store mixing high and low brands. We like Excelsior Milano (4 Galleria del Corso, 20122 Milan, T. +39 02 7630 7301) for stylish shopping and Brian & Barry (28 Via Durini, 20122 Milan, T. +39 02 9285 53431) for funky, multi-brand clothing. For delicious Italian

food, we take an empty suitcase to Eataly (10 Piazza XXV Aprile, 20121 Milan, T. +39 02 4949 7301), fill it up and bring it back to New York!

What do you particularly appreciate about Hotel Principe di Savoia in Milan?

The personal attention. We're very fortunate to be able to stay at the best hotels in the world. However, Hotel Principe di Savoia offers a tangible commodity that others do not: its employees. We also value the service, the quality of the food and the location.

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