



PRESS RELEASE

SVEN GATZ

FLEMISH MINISTER FOR CULTURE, MEDIA, YOUTH AND BRUSSELS AFFAIRS

Friday 17 October 2014

## Designer duo muller van severen wins Flemish Culture Award for Design 2013-2014

Today, the Flemish Minister for Culture Sven Gatz presented the designer duo muller van severen with the Flemish Community Award for Design 2013-2014. The presentation took place at the start of the Biënnale Interieur 2014 at Kortrijk Xpo. The jury praises the talented duo which has great future potential and sufficient quality, talent and vision to play a stellar role in giving a positive, international profile to Flemish design.

Photographer Fien Muller and sculptor Hannes Van Severen did not make their debut as designer duo until 2011. However, what they realised in that short period of time makes their current strong position unique. Their first collection of furniture immediately met with great approval. Domestic and foreign design experts reacted surprised and their furniture installations were applauded by the international specialist press. They won prestigious awards and their work was exhibited in renowned galleries and museums in Belgium, London, Berlin, Milan, Copenhagen, Paris and New York.

The extremely positive response to their oeuvre is no doubt owing to its intrinsic qualities. The duo muller van severen explores the boundaries between art and design in a contemporary and innovative way and adopts an inventive, imaginative approach to functionality. They are constantly looking for new ways to make furniture more interesting from a sculptural point of view, without losing track of its functionality. They succeed wonderfully in adding a very personal, fresh new touch to major historical art and design movements. Their design method has an intuitive, spontaneous, authentic and sincere feel about it. The liveliness and directness of their work appeals to both trade specialists and the general public.

Their oeuvre is characterised by an exciting tension between austerity and extravagance, lightness and heaviness, severity and playfulness, delicacy and sturdiness. Their fascination for materials, their sense of colour and proportions, their affinity with architectural space and their focus on the sculptural form all help create a fascinating universe. They eagerly follow their own path and experiment with new ways of using furniture, averse to fashions and trends, thus designing unique functional landscapes for living, permeated by poetry, imagination and aesthetics.

Flemish Minister for Culture Sven Gatz said: "The minimalist designs of the duo muller van severen offer a surprising, present-day perspective of functional design, always maintaining a close link to the Bauhaus. A promising duo whose talent does not remain unnoticed at the international level either."

### ***Biënnale Interieur 2014***

*In 1968, the founders of the Biënnale Interieur 2014 launched an innovative model to introduce design both culturally and commercially to a broad public of professionals and design aficionados. With this concept Biënnale Interieur 2014 still stands out today within the varied and overcrowded landscape of fairs and exhibitions. The biannual rhythm of the Biënnale allows for the identification of significant trends and the creation of unique concepts, driven by the vision of the curator who is appointed for each specific edition.*

*More information is available on the website [www.interieur.be](http://www.interieur.be).*

### **Flemish Culture Awards 2013-2014**

On the proposal of a jury of experts the Flemish Minister for Culture pays tribute to individuals or an organisation that in the course of the past season made a notable contribution to cultural life in Flanders. The Flemish Culture Awards create public awareness of the laureate at a major event in the sector, which generates attention and appreciation for both the sector and the winner. The two-yearly Flemish Culture Award for Design alternates with the Flemish Culture Award for Architecture.

A cash prize of €12,500 is connected to the Culture Award. The Government of Flanders sets aside €20,000 for the Flemish Community Award for General Cultural Achievement. Each laureate receives the bronze statuette 'La ultima isla' by Philip Aguirre.

More information is available at: [www.cultuurprijzen.be](http://www.cultuurprijzen.be)