ISLAND UNDER PRESSURE

The exhibition exploring how design responds to the forces shaping contemporary Taiwan. Materials, industries, design evolve through experimentation.
De tentoonstelling onderzoekt hoe design reageert op de krachten die het hedendaagse Taiwan vormgeven.

Hosted by: Taiwan Design Research Institute and Atelier YenAn

Project Information (EN)

Five projects translate the pressures shaping Taiwan into tangible design responses

ISLAND UNDER PRESSURE identifies five interconnected forces — Geopolitical, Agricultural, Climate, Industrial and Manufacturing Pressure — as different but overlapping conditions shaping life and production in Taiwan. Rather than considering pressure simply as a problem to overcome, the exhibition looks at it as a condition that can generate transformation: materials change, production processes are reconsidered, established industries encounter new forms of experimentation, and designers develop responses rooted in the specific reality of the island.

The exhibition brings together five main projects by Taiwanese designers and studios — DYCTEAM, KIMU, Lulu Lin, Ting-Hsuan Chang and YSTUDIO with Rosa Cuei and Swei Huang — developed in dialogue with material specialists and manufacturing partners. Their works move across fashion, furniture, ceramics and writing objects, revealing different ways in which design can absorb, interpret and transform pressure.

FIVE PRESSURES, FIVE RESPONSES

DYCTEAM’s From Circular Materials to Everyday Wear connects Taiwan’s agricultural resources with the expertise of its textile industry, bringing pineapple leaf fibre, regenerative cotton, recycled PET into fabrics, garments and objects for everyday use.

Re : Churros, KIMU looks at the material legacy of Taiwan’s technology industry, transforming recycled circuit boards into a wood-plastic composite.

Ting-Hsuan Chang’s Once Soft explores a different relationship with manufacturing and material. Using C-Stone, made from stone-processing waste, the project temporarily turns stone into a fluid, malleable substance shaped through soft fabric moulds.

Climate pressure becomes tangible in Lulu Lin’s suí-koo-niû, made with ceramic and flood sediment from Guangfu, Taiwan. The work uses the unpredictable transformations of clay to reflect on tension, resilience and the continuous negotiation between people and the island.

THE INVISIBLE WAR by YSTUDIO, Rosa Cuei and Swei Huang shifts the focus to geopolitical and informational pressure. Artillery shell casings and bullet-inspired writing instruments become a reflection on how news, social media shape emotions, trust and judgement.

BEYOND SUSTAINABILITY

Together, the five projects reveal a broader dimension of contemporary Taiwanese design. ISLAND UNDER PRESSURE is not simply an exhibition about sustainability or circular materials. Reuse and material transformation are part of the story, but they are also tools for investigating a wider question: how can design respond when environmental, productive, technological and geopolitical pressures coexist within the same territory?
The exhibition speaks about adaptation, material intelligence, manufacturing knowledge and the capacity to transform constraints into new possibilities. In doing so, it reflects a design culture deeply connected to Taiwan’s specific geography and to the expertise of its industrial and manufacturing system.

This perspective also reflects the evolution of Taiwan’s design culture. The island’s internationally recognised technological and manufacturing capabilities increasingly intersect with material research, craftsmanship and design, moving beyond the traditional idea of “Made in Taiwan” towards a culture in which design takes an active role in reconsidering how and why things are produced.

Projectinformatie (NL)

Vijf projecten vertalen de krachten die Taiwan vormgeven naar tastbare designoplossingen

ISLAND UNDER PRESSURE belicht vijf onderling verbonden krachten — geopolitieke druk, druk vanuit de landbouw, klimaatdruk, industriële druk en productiedruk — die elk op hun eigen manier, maar ook in samenhang, het leven en de productie in Taiwan vormgeven. In plaats van druk uitsluitend te beschouwen als een probleem dat overwonnen moet worden, laat de tentoonstelling zien hoe deze ook verandering teweeg kan brengen: materialen veranderen, productieprocessen worden heroverwogen, gevestigde industrieën ontdekken nieuwe vormen van experiment en ontwerpers ontwikkelen oplossingen die voortkomen uit de specifieke realiteit van het eiland.

De tentoonstelling brengt vijf hoofdprojecten samen van Taiwanese ontwerpers en ontwerpstudio's — DYCTEAM, KIMU, Lulu Lin, Ting-Hsuan Chang en YSTUDIO in samenwerking met Rosa Cuei en Swei Huang — die zijn ontwikkeld in dialoog met materiaalspecialisten en productiepartners. De projecten variëren van mode en meubels tot keramiek en schrijfobjecten en laten zien hoe design op verschillende manieren druk kan opvangen, interpreteren en omzetten in nieuwe mogelijkheden.

VIJF VORMEN VAN DRUK, VIJF ANTWOORDEN

DYCTEAM’s From Circular Materials to Everyday Wear connects Taiwan’s agricultural resources and textile expertise, turning pineapple leaf fibre, regenerative cotton and recycled PET into everyday fabrics, garments and objects.

In Re : Churros, KIMU transforms recycled circuit boards into a wood-plastic composite, exploring the material legacy of Taiwan’s technology industry.

Ting-Hsuan Chang’s Once Soft uses C-Stone, made from stone-processing waste, to turn stone temporarily fluid and malleable, shaping it through soft fabric moulds.

Lulu Lin’s suí-koo-niû makes climate pressure tangible through ceramics and flood sediment from Guangfu, Taiwan. Clay’s unpredictable transformations reflect tension, resilience and the ongoing negotiation between people and the island.

THE INVISIBLE WAR by YSTUDIO, Rosa Cuei and Swei Huang explores geopolitical and informational pressure. Artillery shell casings and bullet-inspired writing instruments reflect on how news and social media shape emotions, trust and judgement.

VOORBIJ DUURZAAMHEID

Samen tonen de vijf projecten een bredere dimensie van hedendaags Taiwanees design. ISLAND UNDER PRESSURE gaat verder dan duurzaamheid en circulaire materialen. Hergebruik en materiaaltransformatie zijn ook middelen om een bredere vraag te onderzoeken: hoe reageert design wanneer ecologische, productiegerelateerde, technologische en geopolitieke druk samenkomen?

De tentoonstelling gaat over aanpassingsvermogen, materiaalkennis, productie-expertise en het omzetten van beperkingen in nieuwe mogelijkheden. Ze weerspiegelt een designcultuur die nauw verbonden is met Taiwans geografie en de expertise van zijn industrie en productiesector.

Dit weerspiegelt ook de ontwikkeling van de Taiwanese designcultuur. De internationaal erkende technologische en

productiecapaciteiten van het eiland raken steeds meer verweven met materiaalonderzoek, vakmanschap en design. Zo verschuift de focus van het traditionele ‘Made in Taiwan’ naar een cultuur waarin design actief heroverweegt hoe en waarom producten worden gemaakt.

Image List

Filename	Caption	Credit
001_1791799428.jpg	Five projects	
islandunderpressure-04_1791800233.jpg	Five Projects	©final_final studio
yenanchen-islandunderpressure-01_1791804447.jpg	Curator Yen-An Chen	©final_final studio
001_1791905328.jpg	Five Projects	
designer_1791905338.jpg	Five Designers	

The images above are included in the ZIP under `/images`.