

SIDE GALLERY

ROLLO BRYANT (1996 -)



Floor lamp model “Alora Stem”

From the series “Urban Stem”

Manufactured by Rollo Bryant

Engineer Patou Morrow

Produce for Side Gallery

Rotterdam, Netherlands, 2021

PLA (polymer), PVA (polyvinyl), Silver Sand, P.T.B

Pigment, Acrylic Glass, Aluminium

Measurements

45 cm x 45 cm x 155h cm

Edition

Unique piece

Concept

Moving towards greener cities that support natural systems is fundamental to society. Mitigating the depletion of biodiversity often focuses on preserving large natural habitats, but the preservation of ecosystems should also be a goal in the urban environment. ‘Urban Stem’ shows how light fixtures in public spaces can not only provide illumination but also act as a refuge and nest for flora and fauna. Drawing inspiration from the way erosion sculpts Tafoni sandstone, Roll has developed a working method that merges the freedom of digital craft with sophisticated adaptive simulations. “In spaces designed for and by humans, is there room for interspecies cohabitation?”

We rarely make products just for wildlife without an urgent cause and effect - but by combining a utilitarian product that has functional use for society as well as natural systems, is a way to ensure that humans are invested into the process. The goal is to continue the conversation on how to invite nature back into cities, to imagine how we can redesign urban infrastructure, to suit both us and our life support machine. I wanted to create structures that looked as if they’d almost grown straight out of the ground, mimicking the wild and untamed character of organic fertilisation.

Biography

Embracing craft in the digital age, Rollo Bryant (b.1996, UK) specializes in working techniques that merge freehand sculpting with computational software. Focused on projects that create positive environmental change, while promoting the idea that even with this new challenge, design can still be as appealing and versatile, if not more so.

With a distinct focus on material and lighting innovation, Rollo’s goal is to create works that change perception, invite intrigue and raise poignant topical discussion. His fascination with naturally formed organic structures has led to an aesthetic identity of similar character and taste.

Optimistic about design intervention as a means to address ecological neglect, Rollo’s most recent project ‘Urban Stem’, attempts to bring this conversation into the spotlight, by imagining a future where we are brought closer to the biosphere. Highlighting a number of key problems with the ways we light our cities, the project explores ideas to mitigate our impact and prioritize an alternate agenda for urban design