TLmag 37

True Living of Art & Design

L'Âge d'Or /The State of Gold

Publisher & Editor-In-Chief: Lise Coirier
Guest editor: Marco Sammicheli

We typically think of gold when referring to records or excellence. Historically, it is a colour and a material that evokes multiple symbols, artefacts, traditions. The values and implications of gold today affect the economy, culture, and global politics, and what appeared to be consolidated in meaning is now being examined by the interpretations and investigations of artists, designers, journalists and researchers. *TLmag 37* features reflections and visuals on the evocative power of gold and how it is subjected to revisions, metaphoric postponements, criticisms and insights: the protection and treatment of gold in heritage conservation and archaeological analysis; food culture as synthesis of resources and wars, as is happening in mining exploitation; the use of the precious material to decorate architecture or connect the circuits of the most modern devices; the use of gold to indulge a taste in furniture and in fashion design; its symbolic representation to materialise a spiritual dimension. The use of gold was created to emphasise concepts in art and in the communication of power. Does this assumption also apply to today?

Couvertures/Covers:
1 — Joseph Beuys, *Capri-Batterie*, 1985, 172/ 200, ampoule électrique avec prise de courant, boîte en bois sérigraphiée, lithographie offset sur papier, citron /light bulb with plug socket, screenprinted wooden box, offset lithograph on paper, lemon. Courtesy of the RISD Museum, Providence, Rhode Island
2 — Kiki Smith, *Inner Bodies*, Fondation Thalie, Brussels. Photo by Michel Figuet, Courtesy of Fondation Thalie
3 — Olga de Amaral, *Estela 19*, 1996 – *Estela 66*, 2018 – *Estela 58*, 2018 – *Estela 60*, 2018 – *Estela 59*, 2018, lin, plâtre, acrylique et feuille d'or /linen, gesso, acrylic and gold leaf, variable dimensions. Courtesy of Lisson Gallery
4 — Adi Toch, *Place to Place*, 2021, contenant en or, 90 % d'or, 9 % d'argent, 1 % de cuivre, support en calcédoine blanche, provenant de Turquie /gold vessel, 90 % gold, 9 % silver, 1 % copper, headrest made of white chalcedony, sourced from Turkey, V&A Museum, London, UK. Photo by Sylvain Deleu, Courtesy of the artist and V&A

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