

TELLING TALES

Fantasy and Fear in Contemporary Design



Victoria and Albert Museum

Telling Tales Exhibition 2009
London

"This exhibition explores the recent trend among European designers for unique or limited edition pieces that push the boundaries between art and design. It showcases furniture, lighting and ceramics, designed by a new generation of international designers..."



'Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend 1' lantern

Matali Crasset

(born France, 1965)

2008

Paktong, mouth-blown sheet glass

Prototype for Meta

Lent by Meta, London

Paktong is an alloy of copper, zinc and nickel. It was developed as early as the 12th century in China and was prized because it looked like a cross between gold and silver and would not tarnish. Until now, its recipe had been lost. Matali Crasset's lamp is like a massively enlarged diamond pendant.

"At a time of heightened interest in works of so-called 'design art', made in small editions for the collector's market, Telling Tales featured work by a generation of internationally regarded designers. The exhibition focused on work by designers who explore the narrative potential of objects, connecting the past with the present ...The Enchanted Castle was inspired by the rise of the novel and prints in the 18th century, and featured design that parodies and questions decorative taste, exemplified by the work of Studio Job and Maarten Baas."

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