

HIGHNESS
Bespoke Business Ambassadors

ARTIST BRUNO BILLIO





"I've been using books as a medium in my work for more than 25 years. Full of possibility, knowledge and power, books are magical to me, familiar and unifying. My Gold Book Tower sculptures represent the world's history and knowledge, documented and shared, treasured by humanity, across all language and imagery. 1.5 tons of representational wisdom, gilded and stacked, these modern, Babel-like towers carry a symbolic, as well as tangible weight. Looking into the gaps between the books, the viewer experiences a secret, inner world, in a metaphor for knowledge itself," says Bruno Billio.



This extravagant nickel-plated Palm Tree Sculpture was inspired by The Grand Hotel of Paris. It offered the opportunity for Bruno to design a luxurious sculpture with exceptional craftsmanship and high-end finishes. The juxtaposition of the composition come from transforming a hard material into an organic fluid looking object of nature – the palm leaf. This Sculpture fit seamlessly with the historical structure of the hotel, while feeling fresh yet undeniably posh.

The Windsor Arms Hotel in the Yorkville area of Toronto remains as one of the most iconic buildings in the city. Nestled just steps from the shiny high-end boutiques of the area, and designated Heritage Toronto site, has been a solid fixture in the area since 1927 that followed the architectural movement of the time



First Canadian Place (Toronto, ON - 2019) | Gilded Paper

The All that Glitters exhibition investigates “simulated” worth and the dazzling appeal of glistening, shiny surfaces that excavate their weight through captivating allure. The exhibition title is based on the proverb “All that glitters is not gold”, which was coined by Shakespeare in his original 1596 Merchant of Venice. The well-known adage has assumed a meaning suggesting that precious objects or a person’s genuine value cannot be based solely on the shiny exterior presented. In the play, numerous suitors are pursuing the beautiful, wealthy protagonist, Portia. She, however, is not free to choose whom she will marry as her late father has stipulated in his will that she must wed the man who correctly picks the one of three caskets that contains her picture. It is Portia’s character that inscribes the proverb into history by her written statement found in the caskets instead of her photograph: All that glitters is not gold; Often have you heard that told. Many a man his life hath sold But my outside to behold. Gilded tombs do worms enfold.

The artists in the exhibition find inspiration in the outer night sky, the digital realm, the realm of knowledge and the simulated value of material consumption to push themes that glitter beyond their façade.

Bruno Billio’s gold gilded book sculptures contain the “world’s history and knowledge, documented, shared and treasured by humanity across language, imagery and cultures”. His gold-plated Tower of Babel sculptures are at once reminiscent of stacked gold bars, but through the disguised pages, symbolize the contents of humankind. Through Billio’s sculptural context, we are once again reminded of Shakespeare’s proverb delivered by Portia, to refrain from “judging a book by its cover”.

Stacked Book Sculptures I and II (Private Collections – 2019)
Paper Books Enveloped in Brass Plated Steel



Brass covers over cover gilded pages of randomly sized books tower to the ceiling, stacked on a plinths or hanging from the ceiling. Books are so instantly recognizable. And are treasures of wisdom , memories and emotion. Viewers are always brought back to there own in enchantment of there favourite books.





“Tower Suitcases” The Hazelton Hotel (Toronto, ON - 2007)
Aluminum Nickel Plated

Nickel plated suits cases and trunks stacked to the ceiling, looking precarious as they balance on each other. These towering sculptures are intended to transform guest into modern day explorers. This piece evokes the elegance and story of the world traveller. The mirror pieces appear and disappear as you walk past and reflect the guests in a wash of liquid light. This iconic sculpture has become a treasure of the Hazelton Hotel.

“Out There” The Art Gallery of York University (Toronto, ON – 2008)
Lacquered Wood and High-density Plastic Figurines



This sculpture is composed of yellow and black boxes on a base of yellow rhinos who sport diamond eyes and diamond anuses. Having the sculpture in a massive mirrored containment created a magical world of architecture animals that seem to occupy a palace of mirrors. The piece was intended to provoke the viewer, draw them in and keep them captivated. It makes a whimsical comment on the interaction between humanity and the animal planet.

“Torre Gialla Nera” Istituto Italiano di Cultura (Toronto, ON - 2017) | Lacquered Steel



1. Istituto Italiano di Cultura (Toronto, ON - 2017) | Lacquered Steel

The sculpture is inspired by the artist that have exhibited at the Italian Cultural Institute in the past 40 years. Using custom made metal Yellow and Black steel boxes that are then stacked in an offset manner to give a sense of balance counterbalance to a height of 15 ft. These larger scale yellow and black steel boxes stacked precariously honour all the Italian artists who have shared their work at the institute and note their surnames: Italian painters, writers , filmmakers, poets and photographers that represent Italy's best. The base of the sculpture sits directly on the ground of a heavy black concrete pedestal. It is ever changing in the natural dynamics of nature, its colour and texture in sunlight, wetness of rain, and the shadows of the night. It also serves as a beacon to members of the public to visit and enjoy the Institute.

**“Taking Chairs to New Heights” IKEA Museum
(Sweden - 2019) | Powder Coated Cast Aluminum**



For decades, IKEA has been dedicated to helping its consumers all around the globe create chic interiors. But sometimes it also steps out of ‘the home zone’ and teams up with art representatives to introduce hilarious art exhibitions and projects, rooting in or revolving around furniture design. Bruno Billio was commissioned by IKEA for his 15ft artwork where he continues to show his unique sense of design of active displacement and staging of found objects. The sculpture uses created pieces and works fuelled by IKEA’s products and designs.



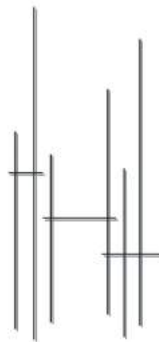
“Tron” FASHION Magazine Launch Party, Design Exchange
(Toronto, ON-2020) | Various Fluorescent Paper Tapes

The grand staircase of The Design Exchange glows in hundreds of purple lines that define the details of the historic Art Deco era in celebration of FASHION Magazine’s spectacular relaunch party to celebrate all types of bodies and design. The one-night installation offered fashionistas a completely immersive artistic experience as they glided through the space to the main event. The effect of the fascia tape was to create an intense glow to seem as if the lines were made of actual light.



"Tron" Nuit Blanche, The Campbell House
(Toronto, ON - 2019) | Various Fluorescent Paper Tapes

The Historic Campbell house in Toronto was transformed into its 3D future of itself with Bruno's installation of TRON. Created for Nuit Blanche, viewers were swept into another as they traversed through the historical building. This analog effect achieved with neon paper tape and black light reimaged the traditional museum into a world of light lines and history.



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