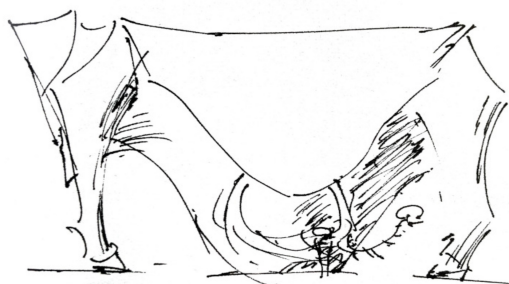


Press Release:

Peter Linnett's Imagined Creatures to debut at Fuorisalone Milano 2025



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This show marks the Milan debut for the Scottish sculptor/designer, who's work features in private and museum collections in China, Europe and USA.

Press Release

Peter Linnett's statement furniture series "**Imagined Creatures**" is a project which has been quietly taking form over a period of some 20 years.

The first pieces in the series emerged in the early 2000's from Linnett's East London studio - where they jostled for attention alongside an eclectic mix of custom projects for high-end interiors and fine antiques undergoing restoration¹. The cross-pollination from period design styles was always clearly apparent: Linnett's sculptural furniture resonates with - and belongs within - a timeless historical lineage.

In 2019, frustrated with what he saw as the soulless over-refined character of most high-end design, he took the decision to break with the mainstream luxury industry, and take his furniture work decisively into the realm of what he calls "anti-perfection". This explicit acknowledgement of a value which had long been at the heart of his work, coincided with a decision to relocate his studio to the city of Edinburgh, in his native Scotland.

Linnett articulated his creative philosophy in a talk he gave to the China International Interior Design Association (CIID88) in Beijing in 2019²:

"Flawless products once emerged only from the hands of the most skilled artisans; but modern manufacturing techniques have rendered perfection mundane... ..artisans must now focus on asserting their humanity, and stop vying with machines in a hankering for perfection"

¹ Alongside his work as a sculptor, Linnett also worked as consultant in restorations and client projects for prestige antique dealer Westland London, and as a design project manager at luxury interiors contractor DKT Artworks Ltd.

² Address to the CIID88 International Design Summit, Beijing, August 2019.

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Work from the Edinburgh studio, which recently featured in the Visual Arts Scotland centenary show at Dalkeith Palace, sees a switch from the opulent material palette which was a hallmark of his London work; with reclaimed timber (in the form of scaffolding planks) taking over as the dominant material. The forms, however, far transcend the austerity of the material. The decaying and abused timber serves to provide a deep underlying patina reminiscent of a well-worn heirloom antique. Despite the material frailty, the forms are powerfully robust and characterful; channelling the energy and essence of the mythical creatures after which they are named:- **Minotaur. Centaur.**

Some earlier pieces from Imagined Creatures will also be presented in the Milan show:- a bronze table - **Unicorn** - which, alongside Linnett's headline-grabbing **Dragon** chaise-longue, is now in the collection of the XiangSi Design Museum in Tianjin, China; and a bull from **Zeus and the Herd** - a series of chairs in which the Greek god Zeus conceals himself within a herd of cattle.

The works will be presented in the spacious interior of a former factory building within Milan's historic Tortona district - one of the key destinations for visitors to Fuorisalone. The exhibition will be open daily from 7-13 April 2025.

Why "Imagined Creatures"? *The Artist Explains*

My work doesn't just resound with historical references; it initiates its own narratives, destined to reverberate long into the future.

Buried within the form and construction of these furniture pieces are conscious expressions, both of the process of production, and of the nature of the materials. And there is an invitation - implicit in the not-quite-finished, yet already degraded condition in which they are presented - to further build out these narratives as an ongoing story.

To this, I have added the whimsy of associating each piece with a mythical creature; thus placing is at the mercy of a loose aural storytelling tradition which evolves and mutates, so can never be pinned to a definitive storyline.

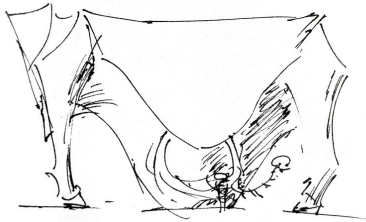
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Press Images

Available to download at www.peterlinnett.com/pr-fuorisalone-25

Other images available on request from: peter@peterlinnett.com



Minotaur (console table) / sketch: Peter Linnett



Minotaur (console table) / photo: Graeme Houston



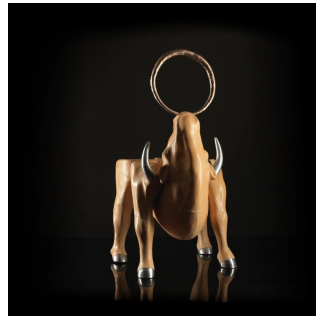
Centaur (writing desk) /photo: Ian Coyle



Centaur (writing desk) /photo: Ian Coyle



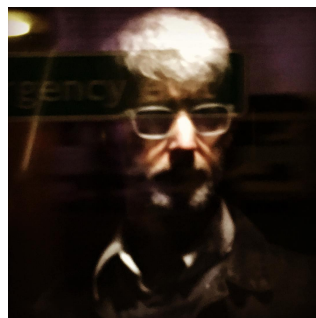
Zeus Bull (chair) / photo: Tony Hutchings



S Zeus Bull (Chair) / photo Tony Hutchings



Unicorn (table) / photo: Tony Hutchings



Peter Linnett / photo: Peter Linnett