**The Floor Labyrinth of the Sansevero Chapel at Fuorisalone 2017**

As part of the **"DiscoveringPeople & Stories"** exhibition that will take place at **SupestudioPiù** on Via Tortona **from 4 to 9 April 2017**during the larger collective **FuoriSalone event in Milan**, Ischia-based designers **Marita and Frida Francescon** will present a **special range of tiles inspired by the eighteenth century labyrinthine patterns in the floor of the Sansevero Chapel**, which will be displayed within a specially produced version of the **Antica-Mente table.**

"**The labyrinthine floor of the Sansevero chapel was destroyed in the late nineteenth century** due to a collapse," explained Marita Francescon, **"but thanks to these porcelain tiles, it will live again and be used in contemporary rooms**."

The design, which refers to the eighteenth century original, is composed of alternating gammate crosses formed by a continuous white line, with concentric squares placed in perspective.

The labyrinthine tiles are allocated within the surface of **the Antica-Mente table, which is made of Lg HI-MACS® by LG Hausys** and perforated around the perimeter with cuts that evoke the motif devised by the Prince of Sansevero.

According to Frida Francescon, "The idea behind the Antica-Mente table is to **combine ancient and modern, using eighteenth century decoration together with a high-tech material such as HI-MACS® by LG Hausys**." The legs, which have cross joint profiles, are reminiscent of the nineteenth century turning.

**The project was carried out in collaboration with the** **Museo Cappella Sansevero** in Naples, which is best known for housing a masterpiece that is famous throughout the world, the Veiled Christ, **and Ceramiche Refin**, a leading international company in the production of floors and wall coverings in porcelain stoneware, which produced the 60x60 cm tiles used on the Antica-Mente table.

**As a partner of the Discovering group exhibition**, Ebay will offer the designers special visibility with **a dedicated section**that will tell the story of the project and the participants. **During the exhibition period, it will be possible to buy the tiles with the labyrinthine motif in 10x10 cm format, a limited number of which have been produced for the occasion** and can be viewed on site.

The table designed by the Francescon sisters was made by Falegnameria Davascio in Naples. The labyrinthine tiles are available in a variety of sizes upon request.

April 4th - 9th 2017 – Superstudio Più – Via Tortona 27, Milan

**Floor Labyrinth – Sansevero Chapel Museum - Naples**

Around the mid-sixties, Francesco Celebrano was responsible for producing a floor with marble polychrome inlay, within which there was to be a continuous line of white marble without join, prodigious invention of the genius Raimondo di Sangro.

A serious collapse, that involved the Palace and the Sansevero Chapel in 1889, damaged the original flooring so much that the restorers shied away from undertaking the complicated restoration, so the Chapel was re-floored in Neapolitan cotto; some slabs of the eighteenth-century flooring are visible today in the passageway in front of the Tomb of Raimondo di Sangro, and others are displayed in the Underground Chamber and the Sacristy.

The rich alchemical Masonic symbolism of the works in the Sansevero Chapel, has fuelled many legends about the a temple of initiation, which safeguard masterpieces such as the Veiled Christ, the Modesty and the Disillusion.

The labyrinth motif, belonging to ancient classical tradition rich in references to hermetic knowledge, represents the difficulty of the pathway which the initiate must follow if he is to gain knowledge. Dating back to the great astral myths of the Ancient World, it was widely held that the swastika symbolised cosmic movement; the concentric squares, alternating with the swastikas, are said to allude to the tetragon of the elements. Labyrinths, found in many gothic cathedrals and more generally in the so-called “abodes of philosophy”, are the alchemists’ image of the Great Work.

**About**

**Marita Francescon** studied Architecture in Naples, Polytechnic University of Madrid and specialized at the European Institute of Design in Barcelona. In 2012 she obtained a second bachelor’s degree, this time in Communications.

Currently she lives and works in the island of Ischia as an architect and designer. She loves to design environment and objects transmitting positive emotions and joy of living.

In 2012 she presented her first furniture collection at SaloneSatellite called “MakeUp Now!” inspired by make-up and consisting of five elements: a stool with the shape of a Lipstick, a Powder armchair, an Eyeshadow table, a Nailpolish shaped led lamp and a “Mascara coat-hanger”. Furthermore, her notebook was chosen for the “Moleskine myDetour5x5” and was exhibited at the Biennale of Contemporary Art in Dakar in 2010. Marita Francescon was also selected by Moleskine among many artists for the launch of the online platform “Moleskine Artist Marketplace”.

**Frida Francescon** has studied Economics in Naples and earned her master’s degree in Social Media

Marketing at “SQcuola di Blog” in Parma. She currently works in museums in Naples. Her collaboration with Marita, started in 2013, added fashion and jewelry design as new disciplines to the field.

She contributed to the creation of a new brand called “Love is my religion”, focused on t-shirts and accessories, inexpensive but fashionable and sophisticated at the same time. The t-shirt line was showed at SaloneSatellite 2013 with “Mi Isla Bonita” furniture collection, that is composed by Ibiza, Capri, Ischia and Mykonos, that with their unique shapes, are transformed into coffeetables and lamps arousing joy and fascination for the observer.

In 2014, the Francescon sisters renewed their participation in the SaloneSatellite, by recounting their experience in a daily journal in their blog Lost in Design ([www.lostindesign.it](http://www.lostindesign.it/)).

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