

**PHOTOGRAPHY OF MY SON ANDREA:** this large-format photograph taken during his sleep is hung just in front of my desk. It exercises on me a strong soothing power.

**‘FLOOD’ LAMP FIRST PROTOTYPE:** after the idea, here was the proof that the thing was technically possible. I remember being immensely relieved.

**POLYURETHANE FOAM TRICKLE:** as an instantaneous reminder that plastics are directly derived from oil.

**PLASTIC BEE NEST SAMPLE:** it just lay there at the time of the photo shoot.



# Beyond the Container

## STILL LIFES FROM MATHIEU LEHANNEUR

A fully paid-up member of the rising star club, French product designer Mathieu Lehanneur seemed like a natural choice for DAMn°’s regular invitation to expose the inspirational stepping stones that turn casual ideas into realised works. His laconic intro style may suggest that Lehanneur is more a man of deeds than words, but when did that become a problem? For DAMn° he photographed what gets him going in his studio and this is what he had to say about the experience: ‘In my Paris-based agency, huge white plastic containers are regularly filled up with materials and objects. These are my ammunition - medium and long-range missiles - and my nutritional reserves at the same time. During doubt or tempest period, they naturally open and brighten up my ideas.’

Text and images by Mathieu Lehanneur, photos by Thomas Humery



**LAMP PROJECT:** the black, glass bubble volume corresponds exactly to the lung capacity of the glass-maker who blew it. We were the only ones to know...

**MARTIAL ARTS HELMET:** I have never succeeded in finding the contact of the Chinese factory that manufactures it. The fabrication processes are not as simple as they appear.

**SCOOTER OIL RESERVOIR:** this is an optimal form considering the limited space available in a scooter motor. Nature would not have drawn it differently. Indeed, it does look like a human organ.

**SEA CUCUMBER SKELETON:** the hidden beauty of flabby structures.

**GLASS BUBBLE AND PLANT:** a plant asphyxiation test during the Bel-Air project.

**SYNTHETIC FOREST:** I wanted to construct a whole space covered by this first test realisation in my studio. When walking on it we sink, as in high and elastic grass. I sometimes sit on it when I need a bit of nature.





**UNDER MY STUDIO'S BUILDING PORCH:** helium balloon funeral.

**A GLASS FLOWER-ARRANGEMENT HOLDER:** there are objects that should never fill the function for which they were originally conceived. Why? It risks removing not only the mystery, but also the beauty.

**EXPLORATIONS BOOK:** one day my wife offered me this old book, I then realised that she thought of me as a mountaineer, a speleologist or an astronaut.

**LIQUID MIRROR FLASKS AND FERROMAGNETIC FLUID:** I am currently preparing an exhibition at the Artists Space in New York around technological fluids.

**SUPPORT FOR SOMETHING:** this flesh-coloured plastic (stolen in a hospital, while my arm was being treated) thermoforms itself at low temperature. When you are working on it, you have the feeling of donating life.

**TEST OF EXPANDED FOAM:** a black beer glass - to your health DAMn°





**A MULTIFACETED BALL STRUCTURE:** when I look at this structure, I think of an improvised orgy in a disco club.

**A HAT SHAPE:** a kind of simultaneous standardisation of the human skull and its brain.

**A LATEX OVAL FORM:** this toy is supposed to whistle in the air when correctly thrown; I have never succeeded.

**A PIECE OF PERFORATED FOAM:** one of my studio assistants made it with a drill and a lot of rage, after I asked him to realise porous structure models.

**TWO VOLUMES OF CONTEMPORARY SCIENCE:** here I find the discoveries of preceding generations and the fantasies projected onto the next ones.



**A NATURALISED CHALCOSOMA:** I cannot imagine that George Lucas did not think of him while drawing DARTH VADER.

**A CORAL BRAIN:** nature likes to openly make fun of the human being. S/he has settled in the seabeds some replicas - in general bigger - of our brain.

**A MELTED POLYETHYLENE PILE:** this excretion comes from plastic extrusion lines before a production launch, and is similar to masculine seminal liquid before the sexual act.

**HOUSE 213.6 ELASTOMER PAN:** the object disappeared, leaving only the metamorphosis.

**MAGNIFYING GLASS WORKING LAMP:** observing closely refines perception and judgment, but can paradoxically remove one from the essentials. #

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