



OCTAGONE

in collaboration with

**mouvements
modernes**

presents

NEIL & ANNABEL McCARTHY

The Phoenix





Neil and Annabel McCarthy design and make furniture together in the barn of their 12th-century farmhouse in south west France, where they moved from Ireland in 2008. They draw their inspiration from automotive design and haute couture, as reflected in their furniture's sleek lines and perfect finish.

Each piece is painstakingly crafted to look effortless. Applying highly polished and brightly coloured lacquer onto solid timber, Neil and Annabel consistently demonstrate technical mastery and flair. Their pieces are produced in limited editions, unique or bespoke.

Neil and Annabel McCarthy received the Irish Furniture Design Award in 2005. Their work is regularly on show in New York, Dublin and London. In France they are represented by Blandine Chambost, who exhibited their work in Paris for the first time in 2012. Several of their pieces were included in the *Make Yourself Comfortable at Chatsworth* show (2015) dedicated to contemporary seating, alongside designs by Marc Newson, Piet Hein Eek and Thomas Heatherwick. A set of twelve Siren chairs is now in the Chatsworth collections, which pride in mixing antique and contemporary furniture. Neil and Annabel's work is included in other prestigious private collections as well as in public museums such as the National Museum of Ireland.



The Phoenix consoles are Neil & Annabel McCarthy's latest design. They combine their signature lacquer with the Japanese charring technique known as *shou-sugi-ban*. Traditionally applied to cedar for exterior use, it preserves wood by burning it superficially. The hardened surface is then cleaned and coated with oil.

The contrast between the matt texture of the burnished surfaces and the smooth gloss of the lacquered surfaces gives the consoles a highly tactile quality which enhances their visual appeal. Named after the mythical bird that rises from fire, the red, orange and yellow consoles evoke the flames that burn but do not destroy.

The Phoenix project originated from the fire which gutted the Irish thatched cottage in which fellow designer-maker Joseph Walsh had established his studio. Neil and Annabel drew their inspiration from the sight of charred wood and memories of an old gloss red dresser that used to sit in the cottage's main parlour. Neil and Annabel were initially commissioned a single piece for the restored studio, then decided to produce a triptych. The red and the orange consoles are sold individually.



Joseph Walsh's studio (county Corke) after restoration



Interior of a traditional Irish cottage





The Phoenix, red
console
solid oak
burnt and lacquered
one-off piece
h: 82 cm
l: 125 cm
p: 38 cm





The orange Phoenix
will be exhibited at **PAD Paris**
stand 21

31.03 - 03.04 2016

The red can be viewed
by appointment.
Price on request.



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