We are very pleased to announce the exhibition ***Chornozem - The exhibition of live Ukrainian design***to be presented during the upcoming Milan Design Week from June 7th to 12th, 2022 in the space T 12 lab.

From the very beginning, the activities of the cultural association T12 lab have focused around sustainable design, public space and the promotion of a territory. In these uncertain and difficult times, T12 Lab has decided to open its doors to the Ukrainian architect and designer **Victoria Yakusha** with her project **FAINA.**

For the past 9 years, Victoria Yakusha has made it her mission to spread awareness about Ukrainian cultural heritage. She has been using local craft techniques for a contemporary sustainable design approach to emphasize the importance of connection to Ukrainian cultural roots. Aside from her activities as an architect, she has organized expeditions to Ukraine with design professionals (designers, architects, journalists, critics, and many more), to elevate artisans who carry on centuries-old traditional craftsmanship, and to increase the worldwide visibility of Ukrainian design. We would like to dedicate the exhibition to these artisans, through Victoria Yakusha’s commitment, and her work, which is imbued with ancient techniques of her homeland.

We hope that this exhibition will be an opportunity to make people discover another face of Ukraine; one that diverges from the horrors of war.

***Chornozem***

***The exhibition of live Ukrainian design***

Since 2014, FAINA establishes the traits of Ukrainian design — naive, primitive, with a strong cultural code. 'Live design' — the philosophy of the brand, centers around the connection to earth and ethnic roots, as well as passing on heritage through spirited collections of modern furniture, lighting and decor.

During Milan Design Week, FAINA showcases the exhibition “Chornozem” (Ukrainian for black soil). Handcrafted by Ukrainian artisans, all design pieces are in black — a reference to Ukrainian soil, the source of strength of FAINA's homeland.

The central piece of the exhibition is a hand-woven **Tree of Life tapestry.**   Rough, loosely woven stitching recalls light, crumbly soil. The nature of Ukrainian earth and the nature of the tapestry intersect. The ancestral craft of wool weaving called 'lizhnykarstvo', passed down through generations in Ukraine, is revived in the tapestry’s process of creation.

Victoria Yakusha, encrypted a symbol from the culture of Trypillians into the Tree of Life tapestry. For the Trypillians, an indigenous people settled around modern-day Ukraine 5,400 to 2,700 BC, the symbol carried the meaning of life, procreation, and connection to ancestors.

**Domna armchair** is a design reminiscence of an ancient ceramic sculpture of the Trypillian Venus. Standing out with feminine forms and curves, DOMNA is an embodiment of Mother Earth, gives life and protects it.

To conclude the exhibition, FAINA enlivens the space with animistic **Soniah floor lamps** which stem from the ground. Soniah (Ukrainian for sunflower) is one of the symbols of Ukrainian soil. Textured primitive shapes of the design pieces are hand-sculpted with the sustainable material — Ztista, signature for the brand.

The exhibition will be accompanied by the film **“Land inspires**”— a design expedition to Ukraine, a unique project by Victoria Yakusha aimed to draw attention to the Ukrainian endangered crafts and rich cultural heritage.

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T 12 lab Via dei Transiti 12 - Milano MM Pasteur

*A special evening for Ukraine* : 8 giugno 2022 | 18h – 22h Exhibition : 7 – 12 giugno 2022 | 11h – 20h

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