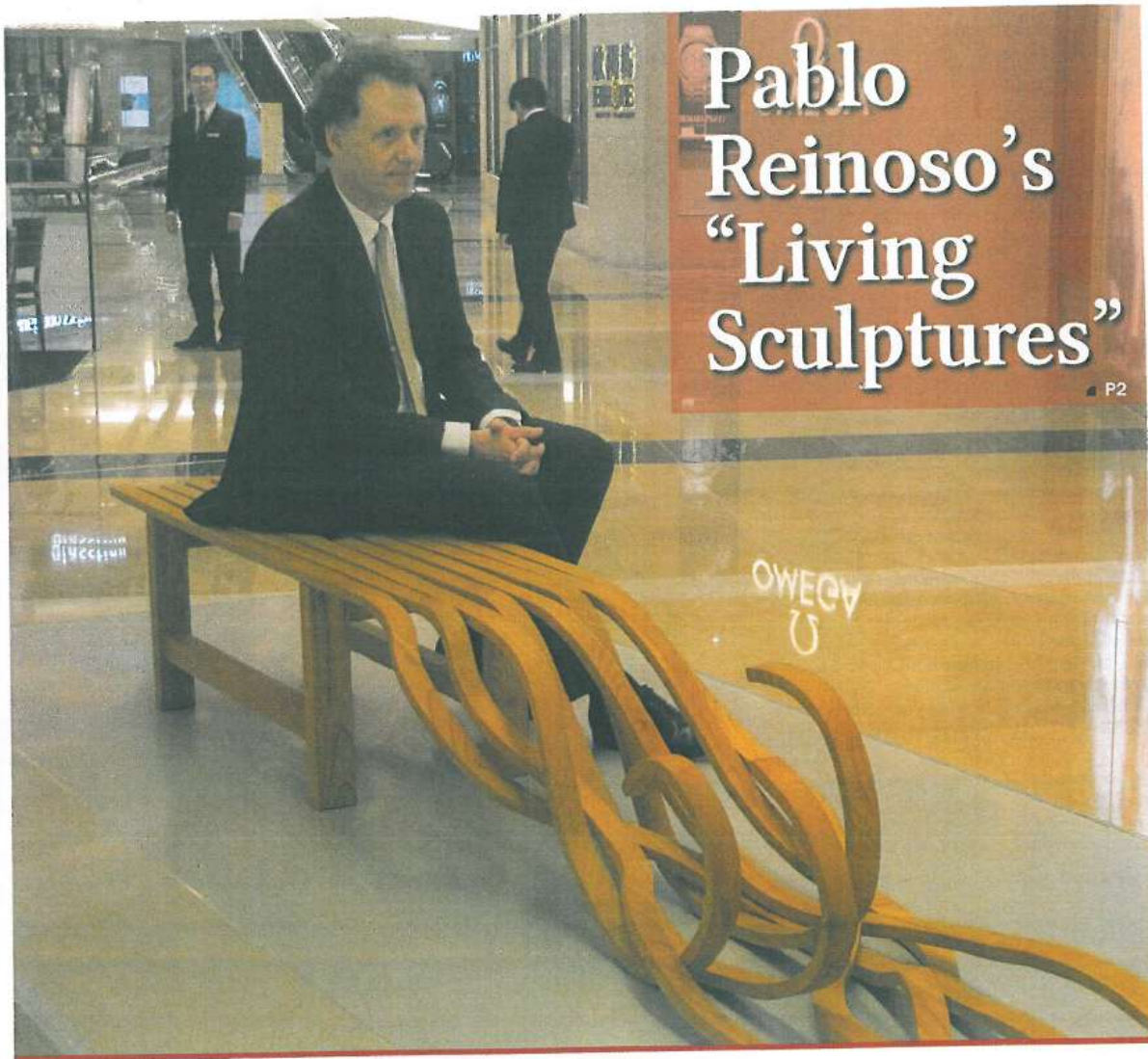


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ART

Chairs with hair and benches with fingers: Pablo Reinoso's "Living Sculptures"

Vanessa Moore

WHEN is a sculpture more than just a piece of art? Artist, designer and researcher Pablo Reinoso tests the limits of possibility with his innovative creations by mutating and anthropomorphizing ordinary objects into the extraordinary.

As part of Le French May arts festival, One Central Macau and the Mandarin Oriental are hosting Living Sculptures, an exhibition of Reinoso's work brought to Macau for the first time by Art Plural Gallery, Singapore. The exhibition - which runs from April 25th to July 14th - presents 11 unique sculptures that redefine everyday objects such as benches, chairs, ladders and spades, among others.

In Reinoso's work, the actual study of functionality leads to an inner dialogue between art and design, creating a new artistic language. The show delivers the artist's thoughts on the "inner dialogue between art and design" as he transforms daily objects into art by playing with the structure and weaving the pieces into their surroundings. By mixing-up materials such as wood, slate, brass, marble and steel, the sculptures act as a vector to convey his inspirations. "We were talking about function and here I'm showing you



Pablo Reinoso

that there are many functions introduced to an object", Reinoso stated as he conducted a tour of the exhibition. "All the functions together, it's a sculpture. We play with space; we play with the idea of growing, of verticals; so all together it's a combo".

As an artist, Reinoso said he was particularly happy that his work would be shown in a public sphere like a shopping mall and hotel because he wants his creations to be enjoyed by more people as possible. Speaking about the choice of venue, Giles Bonneville, Consul of Culture, Education and Science at the Consul General of France in Hong Kong and Macau commented, "This exhibition is in a public space in a beautiful commercial center in a mall so it's, for us, a way to give an opportunity to many people who would maybe not visit a museum or gallery to see the work of the artist". Furthermore, "I think the presentation is very sophisticated and very appropriate here", he stated.

Frederic de Senarclens, Chief Executive Officer at Art Plural Gallery, similarly expressed the desire to reach a wider audience: "We did a big exhibition in Singapore and so it's the first time he's coming over to Macau. I think what we are hoping to achieve is that peo-

ple will discover and enjoy his work, and the achievement is basically to bring a bit of French culture to Macau".

Describing a chair made of wood and vegetable fibers on display entitled "Silla Peluda" that appears to sprout hair from the seat, the sculptor explained the reasoning behind his lively, modernist visions: "It's about growing. You have an object and this object decides to grow a head... and it became art, something new", he said. "I decided to make an evocation of hair... We installed the sculpture like this so that we can imagine that this (hair) can go all around... Instead of 'pret a porter', which is ready to wear, I did it so people can dress with seats. So it's a game that I play with the function of the seat, which will re-accommodate itself".

Yet unlike in museums where the objects are off limits, what makes Reinoso's work special is its playfulness. "His works are at the borderline between design and art and sculpture so there is a functionality to it, so you could totally enjoy sitting on a bench while you are walking around the shopping mall", Director of the Art Plural Gallery, Carole de Senarclens revealed. "So there is this playful atmosphere between function and art that is very interesting to his work".

