

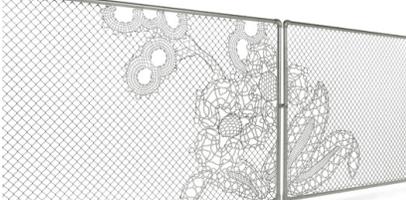
## Deep Surface: Contemporary Ornament and Pattern

This exhibition explores the ways in which contemporary designers are re-imagining ornament and pattern, and re-invigorating its relevance as communicative, functional, desirable forms of cultural expression. Works representing a wide range of media, functionality and scale are organized and presented under six themes to reveal the value, range and breadth of ornament and pattern today:



### Elaboration

This amplified ornament emphasizes, usefully enriches or complicates an object. Designers tease out layers of meaning that are embodied in words, places and objects. This work serves as interpreter by magnifying our understanding of the subject.



### The Everyday

These artifacts call attention and give dignity to the overlooked aspects of daily life, transforming the ordinary, highlighting the pleasures and paradoxes embedded in small everyday actions. It makes the inconsequential of consequence.



### Kit-of-Parts

Designers invite users to cross perceived barriers to creative production. These works ask anyone to manipulate materials; to participate in playful variability. Limited customization and do-it-yourself approaches start a process of engagement with design.



### Inheritances

Designers recognize and exploit the past's dormant presence, using ornament to preserve history and memory, and to draw on its wisdom. This work invokes tradition through a contemporary lens, be recombining the past with the present to create pleasant dissonance. It asks users to take time, to contemplate.



### Generative Assembly

Digital means inspire designers to extrapolate and refine ornament and pattern limitlessly. Designers generate variation on themes and replicate pattern toward infinity. The intrinsic structure of these artifacts and systems constitute their expression.



### Fantasy

This work is created to delight. It celebrates the irrational side of human nature. Designed to entertain, to tease, and sometimes provoke, these artifacts refuse to justify their existence in practical terms. They supply respite from the incessantly forward thrust of contemporary life.

## Exhibition Strategy

The checklist indicates a high degree of selectivity. Rather than overwhelm visitors with objects, the installation gives a generous amount of space to insure careful looking, with the intent to provoke serious consideration of the means and methods of ornament. The exhibition includes opportunities, however, for visitors to play with ornamentation and pattern using onsite elements such as Legos, put-in-cups, or interacting with screen-based tools. Work of significant scale heralds the six themes. These artifacts will identify section zones, as well as capture the essence of the theme. The Black Box room will be dedicated to projections of video and motion graphics where visitors will experience ornament in time and space.