

Dutch design duo VANTOT, renowned for their deeply humane designs that play with how we perceive and interact with light, will once again bring their dynamic ideas to Dutch Design Week.

“Home is Where the Heart Is” is an exhibition that pays homage to the studio’s beloved Eindhoven and marks the first time the much-loved designers will return to their favourite city since moving to a ten times larger space in nearby Breda. Liiu, which was shortlisted for a 2023 Dezeen award, is VANTOT’s flexible suspension lamp system. It will lie at the heart of the new exhibition at Kazerne - the design platform in central Eindhoven that since 2014 has provided a collaborative ecosystem to both support and shape the evolution of Dutch design.

VANTOT started working on Liiu during Covid lockdowns in 2020 and first showed the poetic, lightweight and moveable installations in Milan in 2021. Their first vision was to create huge sculptural installations comprising up to 500 elements for hotels and hospitality foyers. Now, the pieces are scalable, and also suitable to be used in smaller domestic settings using as few as two elements.

But no matter the size, the basic Liiu structure is composed of electrified stainless steel cables fastened to the ceiling and held in constant tension by counter-weights. The bodies of the lamps are positioned on the cables by means of two very light arms that support the luminous head and feature a spiral at the extremity.

The Liiu design including the technology and elements was recently adopted by Italian lighting company Luceplan who will produce and sell while leaving VANTOT scope to collaborate, use and develop their design further. This is a perfect balance that allows an independent studio to grow without compromising its artistic freedom, while leaving much of the legal, administrative and commercial details to someone else.

And it’s not without some sentiment that VANTOT will come back to Eindhoven to show “Home Where Is the Heart Is”. This city is an important creative and intellectual space for Dutch design and is where the duo met and studied. It’s also an incomparable and interdisciplinary design village that fully formed the studio’s design DNA. There creativity, research and technology seamlessly connect with local expertise, production and an exchange of knowledge that moves beyond mere words. Since Liiu’s inception, VANTOT has been in conversation with local component makers who in turn are influenced and inspired by the designer’s vision. In Eindhoven collaboration is key.

In the new Breda space VANTOT plans to continue their innovative and creative approach to illuminating spaces, while convincing other Dutch creatives to follow. Affordable housing and an abundance of nature are draws that VANTOT hope will turn it into the next Dutch cultural hub.

No matter their location, VANTOT will always push the boundaries of what’s possible in the field of lighting design. They will continue to initiate new projects that enhance a user’s relationship with light by integrating smart lighting systems that adapt to the changing needs of the environment and the people within it. Their research into sustainability and perfecting how to incorporate energy-efficient solutions that minimize environmental impact will remain integral to their practice.

VANTOT is also tangible proof of how important it is for small and independent studios to participate in both Dutch and international design fairs. The studio is now collaborating with Dutch, Italian, German and French producers all of whom they met on the circuit. And unlike many European designers, they stay adamant about developing prototypes in-house for brands to later collaborate with rather than just providing drawings.

It’s the Dutch way, the Dutch design DNA that is very specific to Eindhoven where VANTOT’s heart will always be.

VANTOT

Esther Jongsma
& Sam van Gorp

CONTACT

info@VANTOT.com
www.VANTOT.com
+31(0)40 304 67 52

STUDIO ADDRESS

Nassausingel 26
4811 DG, Breda
Netherlands