



**ROBERT WILSON & KARTELL PRESENT:  
"7 ELECTRIC CHAIRS... AS YOU LIKE IT"**

*A collection of seven extraordinary luminous sculptures, premièring at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan in celebration of Wilson's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday*

In celebration of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, Robert Wilson, the famous American director, stage designer and master of visual experimentation, has created with Kartell a series of seven extraordinary chair-sculptures.

The collection entitled "**7 Electric chairs... As you like it**", is composed of seven chairs, all of similar size but different in shape and made of transparent polycarbonate – the material that more than any other characterises the Kartell design brand – and in which white coloured neon light is inserted.

The title of the collection takes its inspiration from William Shakespeare's comedy "As You Like It" and the celebrated monologue of the melancholy Jaques who speaks of the seven ages of man (Act II, Scene VII).

Seven - as in Bob Wilson's 7 life decades. Seven - as in the extraordinary "thrones of light" which will be presented in their world première in the "Arturo Toscanini" box foyer at the Teatro alla Scala di Milano on the occasion of the premiere of Bob Wilson's staging of Claudio Monteverdi's "Il ritorno di Ulisse in patria".

In creating this special project, Bob Wilson, who in the course of his extraordinary career creates sculptures, drawings and furniture designs in addition to his stage work, wanted to bring together two of his signature elements – chairs and light.

Assembled and hand etched, the seven chairs produced by Kartell spring from the same concept but each takes on a different shape. They all share the diamonded surface of a thickness of 20 mm inside which thin neon tubes are inserted, each piece expressing a different form and power. The neon seems to float in the plastic giving life to magical perspectives and sophisticated plays of light reflecting on the precious classic décor of the celebrated Milanese theatre.

**Bob Wilson** explains how he started thinking about the 7 Electric Chairs collection as follows: "*From the number seven. Seven days of the week. I am 70 years old, seven decades, seven deadly sins and there are many more references in philosophy, mathematics. Shakespeare's play 'As you like it' contains the seven ages of man, there are seven dwarfs in Snow white and there is the soft drink 7UP. Seven has always been a number that interests me.*"

**Claudio Luti**, President of Kartell, said: "*The meeting with Bob was on the occasion of the Salone del Mobile 2010, when he came to see the 'Invisibles' by Tokujin Yoshioka. From there was born the idea of using transparent polycarbonate to create a collection of chairs.*"

The set will remain on show in the box foyer of the theatre until 30 September throughout the entire duration of the performances of the Monteverdi opera.

Subsequently seven series of seven pieces will be sold to collectors through art galleries in Milan, New York and around the world.

**Kartell Press Office:**  
pressoffice@kartell.it  
tel. 02 +39 900 122 77/85  
www.kartell.it



"7 ELECTRIC CHAIRS... AS YOU LIKE IT"



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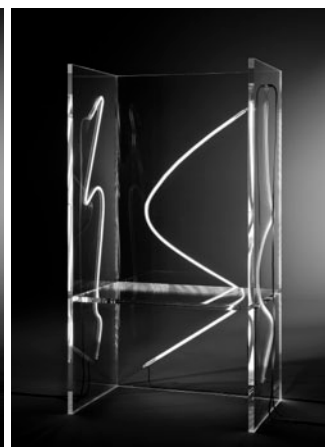
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