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Press Kit:bit.ly/Circula_01For Immediate Release

Circula: Tomek Rygalik's Circular Design

Circula, by Polish designer Tomek Rygalik, is a project created to offer a symbolic and functional space for dialogue and encourage direct social interactions.

(Milan, October 2020) - **Circula**, by Polish designer **Tomek Rygalik**, is a bench created to offer a symbolic and functional space for dialogue and encourage direct social interactions.

"Humans are social creatures. That fact contains both the problem and the solution to our current crisis," says Tomek Rygalik. "Human beings are not intended to be a solitary species: we are social animals. Today everyone's talking about distancing – but there will come a moment dedicated to recovery from all of this, both physically and relationally."

Originally commissioned to encourage social interaction among children in schools, Circula has become a design for the whole community and a profound statement of values: responsibility, ethics and sustainability in design. ECO Solidarity, the program promoted by Studio Rygalik in collaboration with the Polish Cultural Institute of New York, is based on these values and it led to the development of the Circula project.



Circula by Tomek Rygalik

If Circula's main aim is to encourage dialogue and relationships - what better form could it take than a circle? A perfect geometric figure, with neither beginning nor end. A universal symbol of balance and harmony that naturally brings people together. The circle cancels out all hierarchies and divisions. Sitting in a circle allows us to look everyone in the eye, to better express ourselves and get to know each other. It makes us more open to others and supports inclusivity. It encourages sharing and stimulates the creative flow. This also makes Circula an ideal place for informal meetings and brainstorming sessions.

Round in name and form

Round in name and form, Circula is the stylistic and conceptual synthesis of the circularity of design. Made from sustainable, durable materials, the Circula bench is designed to recover, reintegrate, and stand the test of time. The three different versions are made of spruce or pine wood, recycled plastic, and phosphate steel. The wood is sourced from responsibly-managed, FSC- or PEFC-certified forests. The plastic is made 100% from recycled packaging and was developed in collaboration with Boomplastic - a creative studio dedicated to plastic recycling. The visual and tactile result of this version is the **beauty of waste material**: the recycled plastic remains partially transparent to highlight the coarse and colorful fragments suspended within it.



Circula is made 100% from recycled packaging



Fragments of plastic



Circula made of spruce wood sourced from responsibly-managed, FSC- or PEFC-certified forests

"Studio Rygalik promotes a sensible and holistic approach to design. Underpinning our work is an authentic commitment to sustainability and the responsible consumption of material goods and the resources of our planet. In the case of Circula, the choice of sustainable and durable materials grew out of the intrinsic values of the project: sustainability, circularity, durability, and accessibility," says Tomek Rygalik.

There is a notable ethical aspect to the design. The concept of circularity is extended into the social sphere. For each piece purchased, another is donated by the company to a company, association, or foundation that requests one for social or charitable purposes. And if the buyer is no longer interested in the bench, the company itself will take it back and return it to "circulation" through its own network. To keep standing together with respect for the environment.

But it doesn't stop there - the project continues with unique ethical developments. *"Our goal now is to implement the project to reach a wider audience, with the aim of developing a network of collaboration and solidarity carried forward by our project,"* says Tomek Rygalik.

The complexity of a circle

The Circula bench is made of three interlocking modules, held together by an integrated, hidden locking mechanism. The seat rests on three legs, which can be anchored to the ground if necessary. These three supports guarantee complete stability, including on uneven surfaces.

Currently, Circula is available in a standard size - 1900 mm in diameter - with seating capacities ranging from 2 to 6 people. In addition to a wide range of colors and materials, Circula also offers exclusive customization.

Circula on display with Rossana Orlandi in Milan and ICFF in New York

Tomek Rygalik's Circula bench was included in **WE ARE NATURE** exhibition, part of "**Ro Guiltlessplastic 2020**", the international project curated by **Rossana Orlandi** held at the Leonardo Da Vinci National Museum of Science and Technology in Milan, Italy, from September 24 to October 4, 2020. It could hardly have hoped for a more prestigious debut.

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Circula, the plastic mixture is developed in collaboration with Boomplastic

Notes for the editors

About Tomek Rygalik

Designer, curator, and teacher Tomek Rygalik studied Architecture at the University of Łódź and earned a Ph.D. in Industrial Design at the Pratt Institute of New York. He's lead designer at Studio Rygalik working on architecture and products for major companies including Moroso, Noti, Ghidini, Comforty, Paged, Siemens, Heineken, and Ikea. He also collaborates with cultural institutions and universities. He's founder and creative director of furniture and accessories brand TRE Product and co-creator of creative campus SOBOLE.

About Studio Rygalik

Studio Rygalik is a multidisciplinary, internationally recognized design and architecture studio. The output ranges from design to the development and implementation of new interior design products for public and commercial spaces and site-specific installations. The work is focused on sustainability and responsible consumption. The studio has worked on projects together with numerous brands, including Absolut, Bozar, Cappellini, Dentons, Dupont/Corian, Ghidini, Heineken, Ideal Standard, Ikea, Krups, Moroso, Noti, Polin Museum, Profim, Siemens. Studio Rygalik's designs have been on exhibit in Berlin, Dresden, Frankfurt, Łódź, London, Milan, Munich, New York, Tokyo, Poznań, Paris, Warsaw, Valencia, and Wien.

studiorygalik.com

About ECO Solidarity

ECO Solidarity is a multidisciplinary project born from the collaboration between the designer Tomek Rygalik and the Polish Cultural Institute of New York. It aims to implement human-centered art, design, and architecture evaluating their social impact in public spaces and urban furnishings. ECO Solidarity brings together international professionals and companies to offer strategies aimed at rebuilding social relationships and promoting debates in communities through innovative design and contemporary art.

About Boomplastic

Boomplastic is a team of creative people dedicated to solving the problem of plastic pollution in the world. Boomplastic combines expertise in the field of industrial design, industrial technologies and recycling and promotes responsible management of plastics.

boomplastic.com

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