



tord boontje

Born 1968

“I try to bring back sensuality and human qualities to the environment we live in.”

Celebrated Dutch-designer Tord Boontje has become known for his idea that contemporary aesthetics do not need to be void of character. His work reflects a belief that modernism does not mean minimalism, that contemporary design should not forsake tradition, and that technology should not abandon people or forget its relationship with the senses.

His work is ornamental, romantic and modern: he draws on the natural world for inspiration and much of his work has a dreamy quality. But there is always more to his work than first meets the eye: for example, decorative floral patterns conceal thorns. This unique use of paradoxes gives an illusory quality to his work: by playing with your perceptions, his designs challenge you to look - and look again.

His work blurs the boundaries between design and craft. He works with many different types of product and uses advanced techniques and materials to bring his ideas to life. By reconciling nature and technology he is creating another paradox, one that gives his work a uniquely fresh, engaging and contemporary feel.

His work is featured in many public collections including MOMA New York, the Victoria & Albert Museum London and Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam. He has received many awards, such as Dutch Designer of the Year and the Innovation Prize for textile collection, Cologne Fair.

He graduated from the Design Academy in Eindhoven and took a masters degree at the Royal College of Art (RCA), graduating in 1994. Subsequently, he taught there from 2002 until 2004 before moving to France. In September 2009, he returned to the RCA to be Professor and Head of Design Products.