

ART STATEMENTS, ART BASEL 2007

Riccardo Previdi's works investigate the structure and perception of space. Take his Tatami, which are used as projection surfaces while simultaneously serving as room dividers, displays, and light sculptures. Then there are his double-sided collages - the Stereos - which continually force viewers to reposition themselves in space so as to be able to recognize the two intermeshed images.

Previdi frequently draws on the language of modernism and of 1960s and 1970s architecture and design. Interested in the at once formally and socially revolutionary ideas of that time, he transforms them in his installations. In his Oversizing Aconà Biconbì series, for example, he altered the size and material of Italian artist-designer Bruno Munari's LP-sized multiples to produce sculptures of cardboard, plexiglass, neon, or mirrors. Through extreme magnification of the scale of Munari's Aconà Biconbì, Previdi now creates a space-consuming 'super-structure' - a combination of oversized children's toys and strange furnishings with a lightness and fragility reminiscent of floating architecture, of spaceships or mechanical clouds.