

# UNA

 SPAZIO  
LEONARDO

 GENERALI  
AGENZIA MILANO  
LIBERAZIONE ASSICURAZIONI

**Spazio Leonardo** is pleased to open its 2023 artistic programme with **Less Is...**, the first solo exhibition by French artist Elvire Bonduelle (\*1981, Paris) in Italy.

“A dictator of happiness” is how the artist once defined herself and her art, devoted to domestic comfort. Eluding limitations of media - spanning painting, installation, usable sculptures, video, and performance - and categorizations of her practice, Elvire deliberately refers to Arts and Crafts and design, creating artworks which, in a very personal way, intend to be solutions for people, making their life better and happier. This requires, of course, a responsive audience. Joyfully colorful, Elvire Bonduelle’s creations do not fear the right to stand out against the grey background of contemporary art’s clichés. The use of words is recurrent, often puns and statements (“LESS IS MORE OR”; “SAIL AWAY”; “MIS FIT”) and palindrome (“OK KO”; “GOD DOG”), which are transcribed directly onto her objects and paintings through a specific font she designed.

On the occasion of **Less Is...**, Elvire creates an environmental installation that blurs the boundaries between domesticity and working place. On the long wall of the *gallery* of Spazio Leonardo, a fireplace painted on canvas, and a series of metal elements - a coathanger, two firedogs, a shelf, and a sconce, designed in the shape of the letters of the statement *Less Is More or Less* -, evoke the comfort and intimacy of our homeplace, while occupying a space dedicated to work, business meetings and corporate events. Elvire ironically adds *or Less* to Mies van der Rohe's quote that *Less Is More*, the trademark for modernist architecture, thus questioning notions of sobriety, minimalism, and of seriousness in art, and making space for some frivolity and humor.

A series of drawings of home interiors, as well as paintings with words and lettering, and additional metal elements, like a firescreen, two low tables and a couple of chairs forming the words OK-KO, playfully enhance the confusion about the spatio-temporal parenthesis created by the artist. Recalling her ongoing project *Waiting room*, an exhibition series based on the idea that waiting rooms offer an ideal situation for the contemplation of artworks, Elvire creates for Spazio Leonardo more an environment to live in, than an installation to look at. With humor and frank freedom of mind, Bonduelle triggers the intellect of the visitors, while defying the daily routine of the corporate workers and the usual fruition of the space.

**Exhibition:**

March 24 2023– June 10 2023

from Monday to Friday:

09:00 am – 6:00 pm

Spazio Leonardo

via della Liberazione 16/a, 20124 Milan

[www.leonardoassicurazioni.it](http://www.leonardoassicurazioni.it)

**Press contact:**

Francesca Pavesi

press@spazio-leonardo.it | +39 380 315 1378

**Elvire Bonduelle** was born in 1981 in Paris. She studied at les Beaux-Arts de Paris in Richard Deacon's studio and graduated in 2005. Mainly based in Paris, she presented her work in galleries and institutions such as Bienvenu Steinberg & Partner, NYC (2022); La Maison des Arts, le Grand Quevilly, France (2022); Musée d'art contemporain de Dreux, France (2021); Three Star Books, Paris (2021); Marta, Los Angeles (2020); Taïkwun Museum, Hong-Kong (2019); Design Parade Toulon et Villa Noailles, Hyères, France (2019); Atelier Jaspers, Bruxelles (2018); Neuehouse, NYC (2018); The Impermanent Collection, Bruxelles (2017); Biennale Ephémère 6ème édition, Bergerac, France (2017); La Kunsthalle, Mulhouse, France (2016); Parcours Hors Les Murs, FIAC, Jardin des Tuilleries, Paris (2015); New Archive at LACA, Los Angeles Contemporary Archive, Los Angeles (2014); To the Moon via the Beach, conceived by Philippe Parreno and Liam Gillick, and curated by Tom Eccles, Liam Gillick, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Philippe Parreno, and Beatrix Ruf, the Amphitheatre, Arles, France (2012). Elvire also published various books with texts and images, alongside special editions of "El Pais" and "Le Monde" newspapers. Among the private and public collections which acquired her work: Le Plateau - FRAC île de France; FRAC Corsica; CNAP - Centre national des arts plastiques, Paris; Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles; Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, MA; Tuft University, Boston, MA; Bridwell Library, Dallas, Texas; KB Nationale Library, Den Haag Pays-Bas.