

Inga Sempé

On the Every(day) Use of Objects

By Lise Coirier
All photos Courtesy of Inga Sempé



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“I don’t have a culture of objects; I don’t read books on design, but rather novels, and I observe objects in their everyday environment. I enjoy going to the Flea Markets in Paris. This visual culture, which is not academic, doesn’t rely on any classification. What interests me above all are objects and their uses.”

French designer Inga Sempé works and lives in Paris. She graduated from ENSCI-Les Ateliers (National School of Industrial Creation) in the early 1990s. She opened her own studio more than 20 years ago. She initially collaborated with Italian brands such as Cappellini and Edra and has extensively worked with Scandinavian, Italian, and French companies such as HAY, Ligne Roset, Magis, Alessi, LucePlan, Mutina, Rørros, Moustache, Svenskt Tenn, Gärsnäs. She recently had a beautiful exhibition at Iittala & Arabia Design Centre in Helsinki, Finland, and was fortunate to be one of the first French contemporary designers to have a solo exhibition at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs – MAD Paris in 2003. She was the Guest of Honour at the Stockholm Furniture Fair in 2012 and created the playful installation “Tutti Frutti” at Villa Noailles, Design Parade 12 in Hyères in 2017. She is preparing a solo exhibition at the Triennale di Milano, which will be inaugurated in April 2024 during Milan Design Week.

For this carte blanche, Inga Sempé has selected drawings, models, and works that have marked her creative journey in recent years. A joy of living and interacting with the world of objects characterizes her creative itinerary. She never ventures into decoration and does not engage in interior architecture projects, dedicating herself solely to the slow process of designing objects that align with their intended uses. “I draw, I seek, it takes time, everything must be ultra-precise in relation to the materials and the craftsmanship I explore to create, whether it’s lighting or furniture. The essence of the object precedes everything else.” ♦

1-2 — Installation view, “In Line with Inga Sempé”, 2022, Iittala & Arabia Design Centre in Helsinki, Finland
3 — Inga Sempé

@ingasempe
www.ingasempe.fr



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- 4 — Installation of *Mousqueton* portable lamps for Hay, 2023
- 5 — Mock up for *Mousqueton*, portable lamp collection for Hay, 2023
- 6 — Night time view of *Mousqueton* portable lamps for Hay, 2023
- 7 — Drawing for *Matin*, a collection of table lamps for Hay, 2019
- 8 — Installation *Matin* table lamps for Hay, 2019
- 9 — Process of designing *Matin*, a collection of table lamps for Hay, 2019



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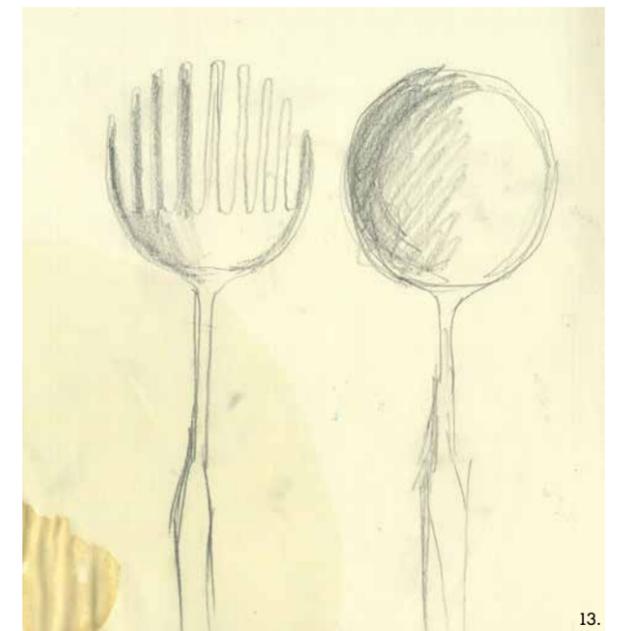


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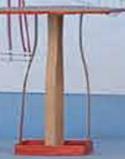
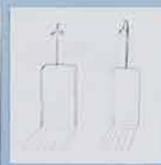


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10 — *Herringbone*, Double grill pan, Crane, United Kingdom, 2017
 11 — Serving utensils, *Collo Alto*, Flatware collection, for Alessi, 2015
 12 — *Collo Alto*, Flatware collection, for Alessi, 2015
 13 — Sketch for *Collo Alto*, Flatware collection, for Alessi, 2015



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14 — (Previous page) Installation of various models of *Beau Fixe* for Ligne Roset, 2015
15 — *Ruché*, chair for Ligne Roset, 2010
16 — Sketches for *Ruché* collection for Ligne Roset, 2010
17 — Mock ups for *Ruché* collection for Ligne Roset, 2010
18 — *Ruché* sofa for Ligne Roset, 2010



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19 — Process of designing *Meteo*, rug collection for Golran, 2015
20 — Drawing for *Meteo*, rug collection for Golran, 2015
21 — Finished rug for *Meteo*, rug collection for Golran, 2015



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