

extremis®



Extremis Founder Dirk Wynants Receives Prestigious Henry van de Velde Lifetime Achievement Award

Belgium, January 24, 2024 - *Extremis, the renowned design furniture brand, proudly announces that its founder and head designer, Dirk Wynants, was honored with the Henry van de Velde Lifetime Achievement Award last night. This prestigious award recognizes individuals who have made a significant impact on the design sector.*

Celebrating 30 Years

In a remarkable confluence of milestones, both the Henry van de Velde Awards, Extremis, and the iconic Gargantua picnic table are commemorating their 30th anniversaries in 2024.

It all started back in 1994, when Dirk Wynants was in the market for an outdoor picnic table for his family. He sought something to help his children feel included in the conversation at the dinner table. Unfazed by the lack of design and functionality in existing outdoor furniture, Dirk (like some other entrepreneurs) retreated to his garage. From this modest setting emerged Gargantua: a picnic table with height-adjustable benches to allow children to sit at the same eye level as the adults and for guests in wheelchairs to have easy access as well. This simple yet ingenious creation marked the birth of Extremis.



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Visionary Leadership

Under the visionary leadership of Dirk Wynants, Extremis has evolved into a global player in the designer furniture industry. The company's unwavering commitment to originality, simplicity, functionality, and efficiency has solidified its position as a leader in the field.

Anticipating the Future with Optimism

As Extremis looks ahead to the future, optimism abounds. With new products like Panigiri and Manille, accompanied by innovative accessories, the brand reaffirms its commitment to providing quality, durable, and timeless designs for generations to come. Dirk Wynants' legacy as a design pioneer continues to inspire the company's ethos, ensuring Extremis remains at the forefront of innovation in the designer furniture industry.



About the Henry van de Velde Awards

The Henry van de Velde Awards honor excellence in the design sector, recognizing individuals and entities that positively impact society, the environment, and the economy through smart design solutions.

Why did the jury choose Dirk as a winner for this Lifetime Achievement Award

The jury presents the Lifetime Achievement Award to entrepreneur and designer Dirk Wynants for his bold vision and impact on the design world and as the driving force behind the designer furniture company Extremis, which is an economic success story and excels in originality and simplicity, as well as functionality and efficiency. A pioneer in many fields, he helped put Belgian design on the map far beyond our national borders. Dirk is not afraid to jump in and take responsibility. He also brings designers together, for whom he is an inspiring example. He continues to reinvent himself and evolve with today's challenges.

Some highlights from Dirk's career

LUCA
SCHOOL
OF
ARTS

1987

completes his studies interior architecture - furniture design option at Sint-Lucas, Ghent



1994

establishes Extremis in a secondary capacity. His first design **Gargantua** is assembled in his garage



2002

designs **PicNik** and develops it in close consultation with Xavier Lust



2011

Umbrosa receives a license for the Kosmos parasol system

2016

his son Thomas founds Extremis Inc, the distribution division for the **USA**



2019

receives a **Red Dot** award for the **sixth time**, this time for Bistrou



2021

launches **AMAI** fully digital with a video 'Harry Topper and the table of Proven'

1990-1995

brings various design collections to the Benelux as an agent under the wings of Top Mouton

1998



participates in the very first edition of the Salone Satellite, created within the **Salone del Mobile** in Milan for young talent

2010



after the construction of his own hop field, the **Hopper** picnic table takes shape

2014

builds a **new headquarters** in the vast fields of the Westhoek region

2017



Sol & Luna receives a gold German Design Award after its "incrowd" funding launch at Salone in Milan

2020

designs Como Corner for Modular Lighting Instruments

2023



the introduction of **Manille** happens for the first time not in Europe, but at NeoCon in Chicago



About Extremis

Extremis was founded in 1994 by Dirk Wynants. In the past three decades the company has grown into a 50+ people company with 20+ collections. The Extremis furniture design collections represent products that are both necessary and useful. They are 'Tools for Togetherness' that stress the importance of and enhance human interactions, intelligent problem solving, and sustainability, to improve people's lives. Extremis has its headquarters in Belgium, but also has a branch in the United States. The design collection is popular all over the world, especially in Europe, the United States, Japan and Australia.

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