

**Aki Choklat, a shoe exhibition**  
*Futurespective* in Florence, Italy  
June 1-28, 2022

A shoe exhibition by shoe designer Aki Choklat will be on display in the month of June 2022 in Florence, Italy. The exhibition presents the most important works of the from his entire design career, as well as the latest handcrafted men's footwear. Viewers will be able to see Aki's creativity, the limitless possibilities of combining materials, and the quality of his finished work. The strong fundamentals of the accessories designed by Aki Choklat appears in the sense of design work, the courage to try different ways and materials. The technical and insightful know-how of the manufacturers is also highly valued in the design work.

The exhibition had been postponed from 2020 until now - perhaps for good reason - since corona time has deepened Aki's work as a designer and made it possible to focus more on consulting and creative work. Aki Choklat's previous exhibition in the summer of 2019, the retrospective in Säynätsalo, was in a building designed by Alvar Aalto in Säynätsalo, Finland. Alvar Aalto, the renowned Finnish architect and designer, has had a strong influence on Aki's creativity since his childhood.

Aki Choklat's long-term business partner and agent, Sirkka Kärkkäinen, introduced him to Italian sculptor and art professor Antonio Lo Pinto, who decided to invite the designer to present his shoe exhibition at the C2 Contemporary art gallery in Florence. Aki's design work has mostly focused on men's footwear.

### **Futurespective**

Men's shoes convey historical influences from cultures that are significant to the artist. One of them is a historical expedition to the South Pole in the early 20th century. As a designer, as well as a teacher, Aki has been particularly impressed by previous international trends. He often makes them materialize in his contemporary work, but with a forward-looking image and style.

"I always look to the future through two lenses: the past and the present. The past has allowed us to discover new paths." This sums up designer Aki Choklat's perspective.

### **The teamwork**

The show consists of teamwork featuring a reworked version of his earliest shoe designs. One of the early boots was made with a long-time colleague, master footwear maker Mark Emmet, as are several of the shoes in the show. The exhibition also features a new shoe model concept; it is inspired by the artist's deep Finnish roots. Elif Malkoclar, of Studio CRAFTS, one of Italy's leading luxury studios, is responsible for the implementation of the crocheted shoes and leather work. In addition to Aki Choklat, the studio also works with Chanel, Valentino and Bottega Veneta. The latest shoes from Aki's show are made in Detroit and Florence. In Detroit, Tom Carbone has been part responsible in the making of the shoes, along with the part made by Elif Malkoclar mentioned above. Additionally, a significant collaborator is Christian Trippe, who has been responsible for the graphic look of the works.

### **A teacher and influencer of the future**

Teacher and influencer of the future Designer Aki Choklat works in Detroit as teacher and guide to future designers. At the College for Creative Studies, Aki works as the chair and a professor of the Fashion Design department. It provides him with a great opportunity to work with the world's leading fashion companies, as

well as to mentor new designers in fashion and apparel skills. Aki Choklat has also written and co-authored books such as Bearflavoured, Shoe Design, Footwear Design and Menswear Trends.

The production and communication of Aki Choklat's *Futurespective* in Florence exhibition, from PR design to its implementation, is produced by Sirkka Sissi Kärkkäinen.

**Exhibition:** Designer Aki Choklat, **Futurespective** in Florence

**Date:** June 1.-28., 2022. Normal opening by appointment Antonio Lo Pinto, +39 3347970531.

Monday-Saturday, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

**Location:** C2 CONTEMPORANEA di Antonio Lo Pinto, Via Ugo Foscolo 6, 50124 Florence

The designer will also be available at the exhibition venue on June 1 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

**Invitation for guests:** May 31, 2022 at 18:00

**After Party:** 21:00, Via Ippolito Pindemonte 63, 50124 Florence

**Pitti Uomo:** Every day from 14 June to 16 June 2022 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, and by appointment Antonio Lo Pinto +39 3347970531.

The exhibition by designer Aki Choklat will move to Detroit, where it will be part of the Italian House in Detroit Design Month in September 2022.

akichoklat.com

c2contemporanea2.com

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