



VANNI for ARTISSIMA

INTERVIEW  
with Cristian Chironi

What better place than the artist room in which to pose 4 questions to Cristian Chironi, the artist with whom we collaborated, with the curation of Artissima, in order to realise the Concrete eyeglasses. We wanted to go deep into the creative process that inspired the 2 models and their original colour variants.

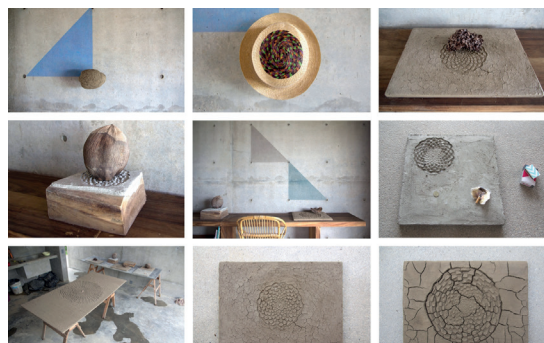
**Now more than ever our houses are at the center of our lives. How have the houses in which you've lived influenced your research for the realisation of the Concrete glasses?**

L'Unitè d'Habitation of Marseille, a residential complex ideated by Le Corbusier, has influenced the use of the sunblind on the front and the lateral temples, brise-soleils being present also on the external facade of the building. For the colour pairings I took inspiration from the polychromatic walls of the apartments. The brown tone of the upper lug accompanied my days in the residency inside apartment 50. The idea of a living cell also characterised the capsule containing the glasses.

Wabi House by Tadao Ando, which rises up close to Puerto Escondido, dictated more than anything the choice of material for the covering of the metal shell, an opaque varnish with a texture rough to the touch, reminiscent of the materiality of cement. A colour that coexists with the sea blue of the Pacific Ocean and the sand colour of the tips.

The stay at Pierre Jeanneret House, Chandigarh, was significant for the natural light, warm and enveloping, that enters inside the house, breaking the discontinuity between the landing and the street, sanctioning the meeting between internal and external, that we sought to develop in the harmonious choice of photochromic lenses.

Finally, Victoria Ocampo House, Buenos Aires, realised by the architect Alejandro Bustillo, that had to adapt a large part of the project, later coming to disavow it, to the choices of Victoria, a great female figure to whom the pink tone of the lateral lugs of the temples intends to pay homage, celebrating her determination and that of who will know how to wear this eyewear model, showing off their own convictions.



## What are the objects you love to surround yourself with?

Generally, they are the objects I find on site. By my own choice I often change house, city, country, confronting myself with different cultures and costumes and developing an art of habitation and adaptation, that allows me to immediately establish empathy with the objects that surround me. I think that every object is worthy of observation and I let them be the ones to host me.

## Art and design, different or complementary sectors of activity?

In my artistic research I utilise different languages, having them dialogue more often than not. Whether it be for site-specific works or for those with a performance or installation character. What interests me is the interaction with the environmental context, as well as the human one. Visual arts, performance, photography, architecture, design, are modalities that I use depending on what I have to say. I don't ask myself the question of whether they are different or complementary, if not how these two can coexist in the body of the work and what each can contribute to realising it.

## Where will we see you next?

In Marseille for les Parallels du Sud MANIFESTA13, with an exhibition at Unité d'Habitation and a series of performances in the city on board a Fiat 127 Special (Camaleonte) together with the curator Elena Biserna. In October with a beautiful residency project for the Museion di Bolzano, with interventions scattered between the Cubo Garutti and the city curated by Frida Carazzato. November will be the month of the next stop in the project. My house is a Le Corbusier in the Villa Jeanne-ret-Perret in La Chaux-de-Fonds. Next in Turin with a project that I ideated titled "Le Corbusier. Travels, objects and collections", organized by the Pinacoteca Agnelli in collaboration with the Le Corbusier Foundation of Paris, that will recount the research, ideas, and inspirations of the architect, through objects, designs, and photographs and interventions around my work.

