NEXA AWARD 2025

THOMAS D'ENFERT

No Spare wheels



NEXA | Next Generation Sustainability Award HGK Basel 2025 (Bewerbung / Application max. 6 pages)



No spare wheels (a family business)

When I look at my hands, I can't help but think of other hands. Hands are made to work in company—a handshake to yourself is just an impraticable paradox. If I would have to think about one pair of hands in particular, there is one that comes immediately to my mind. Especially at this moment. A set of hands that were there from the very beginning. Hands that held me steady and wiped away my tears, offering me feelings that a word could never carry. Sometimes I am trying to remember what I cannot remember, just to try to get a glimpse of the past. When I think of these hands, I can only imagine a source of care and discipline, guiding me through my first steps and moments.

About a year ago I noticed the first difference. These hands were not like they usually were, something had changed. A subtle little shake here and there that slowly spreads and grows. The occasional tremble will become the ordinary. For the moment, I can only be the spectator of this insistent rebelion, observing these old friends getting old. It takes time to adjust to the news.

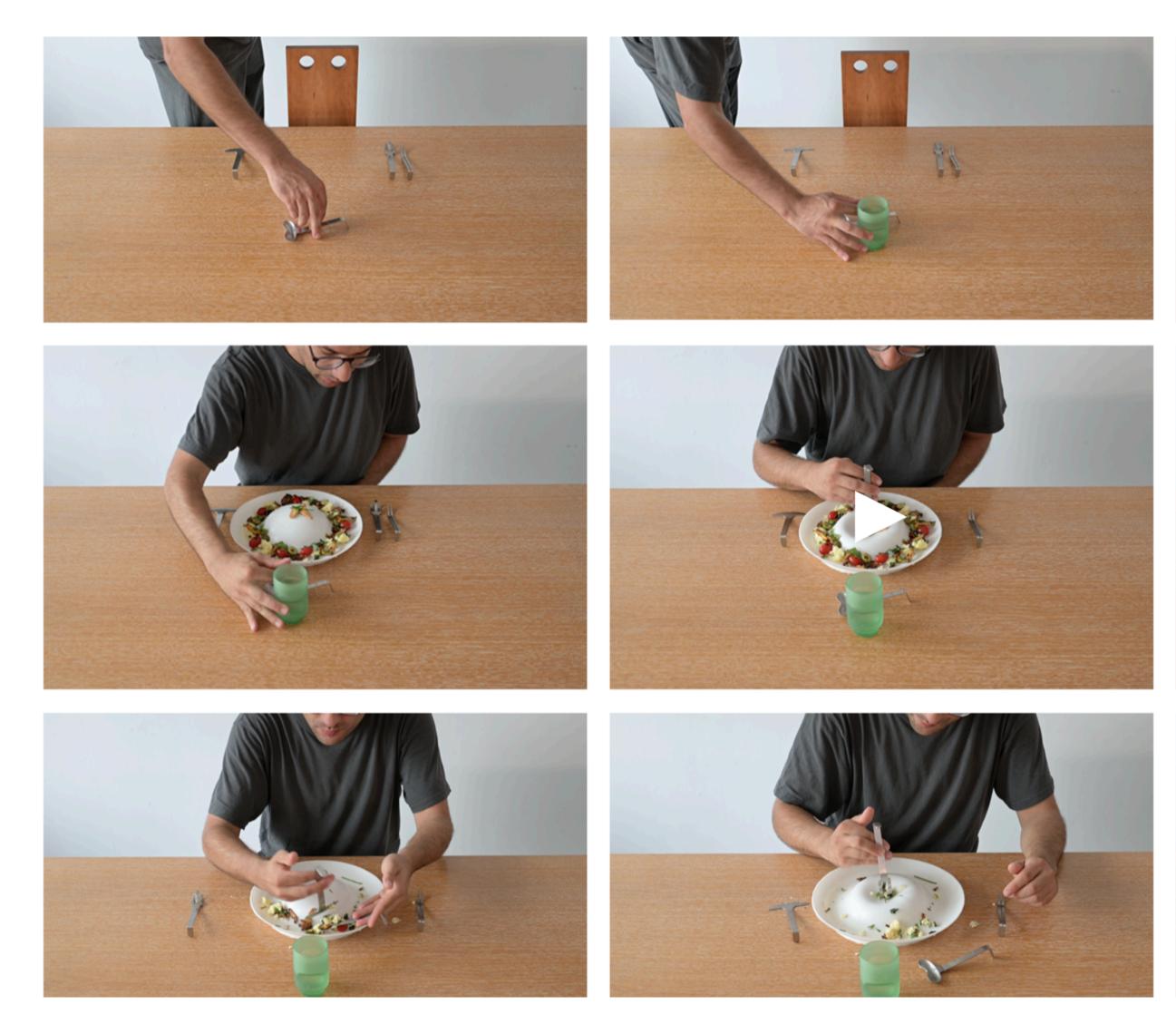
This was around the same time as I began working on this project. Inspired by an old family business that my cousin and I often joked about restoring, I gradually considered designing a series of utensils, plates, and glasses. As far as I can remember, utensils produced by the family company were a bit everywhere, at my grandmother's, in my kitchen, and so on. One hundred years of silverware production leaves some traces behind.

Because of this legacy, to me utensils and cutlery have always had their own story, and perhaps that's why I felt inspired to write one of my own. Telling a story always reveals a little bit about yourself, and perhaps this is the alchemy of circumstances that shaped this conceptual direction.

When seeing these subtle trembles growing on these hands I know so well, I can only ask myself the hypotethical question: what if? Answering this question feels impossible and this is why I am designing No spare Wheels, as an attempt to share and understand.







For video click here









Seen on TV

Thank you !

