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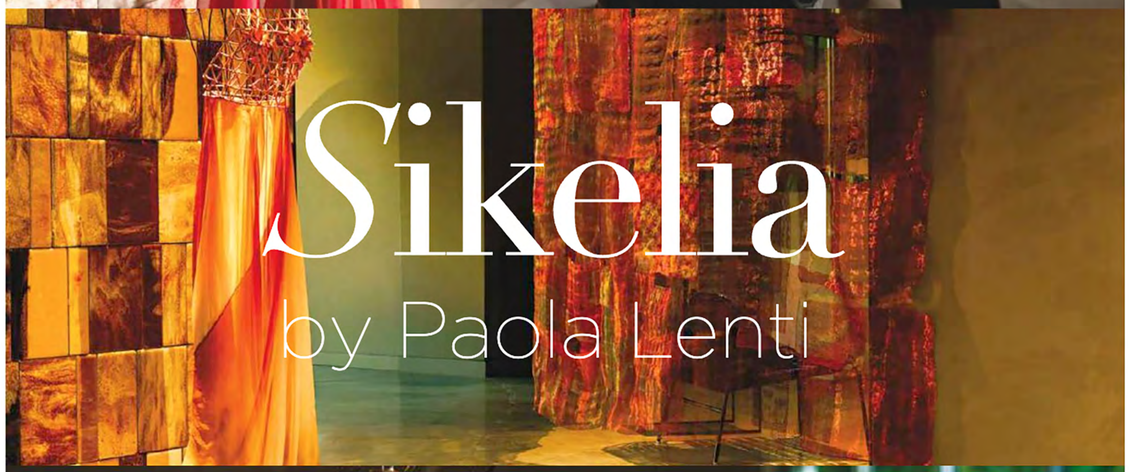


Sikelia

by Paola Lenti

From the land of Sicily, matter is transformed into art and design.

On the occasion of Art Basel, Paola Lenti Miami presents a reflection on material and its expressive languages through an installation featuring the textured garments of Sicilian artist Marella Ferrera, in dialogue with the Sciara surfaces she designed for Paola Lenti.

SIKELIA showcases a precious collection of unique works inspired by Sicily, created by the artist between 1993 and 2000 and preserved in her historical archive at Palazzo Biscari in Catania.

The garments tell the story of Marella Ferrera's design research into hemp, ceramics, copper, glass, terracotta and coral: materials embroidered onto textile supports in an unconventional and artistic way.

Through these techniques, elements of her homeland are transformed into wearable creations, giving rise to a narrative that pays tribute to Sicily, the island of her origins. Marella Ferrera's unconventional career, which began in the world of haute couture, expanded into architecture in 2015 with the creation of Sciara, a project developed in collaboration with Paola Lenti. Sciara is the Sicilian term describing volcanic deposits that form on the surface or along the slopes of lava flows.

Con motivo de Art Basel, Paola Lenti Miami presenta una reflexión sobre la materia y sus lenguajes expresivos a través de una instalación que presenta las prendas texturizadas de la artista siciliana Marella Ferrera, en diálogo con las superficies Sciara que diseñó para Paola Lenti.

"My meeting with Paola Lenti gave me the opportunity to translate my textile vision into habitable spaces, exploring the vast surfaces of domestic interiors and investigating colour in ways I would never have explored on my own."

Marella Ferrera

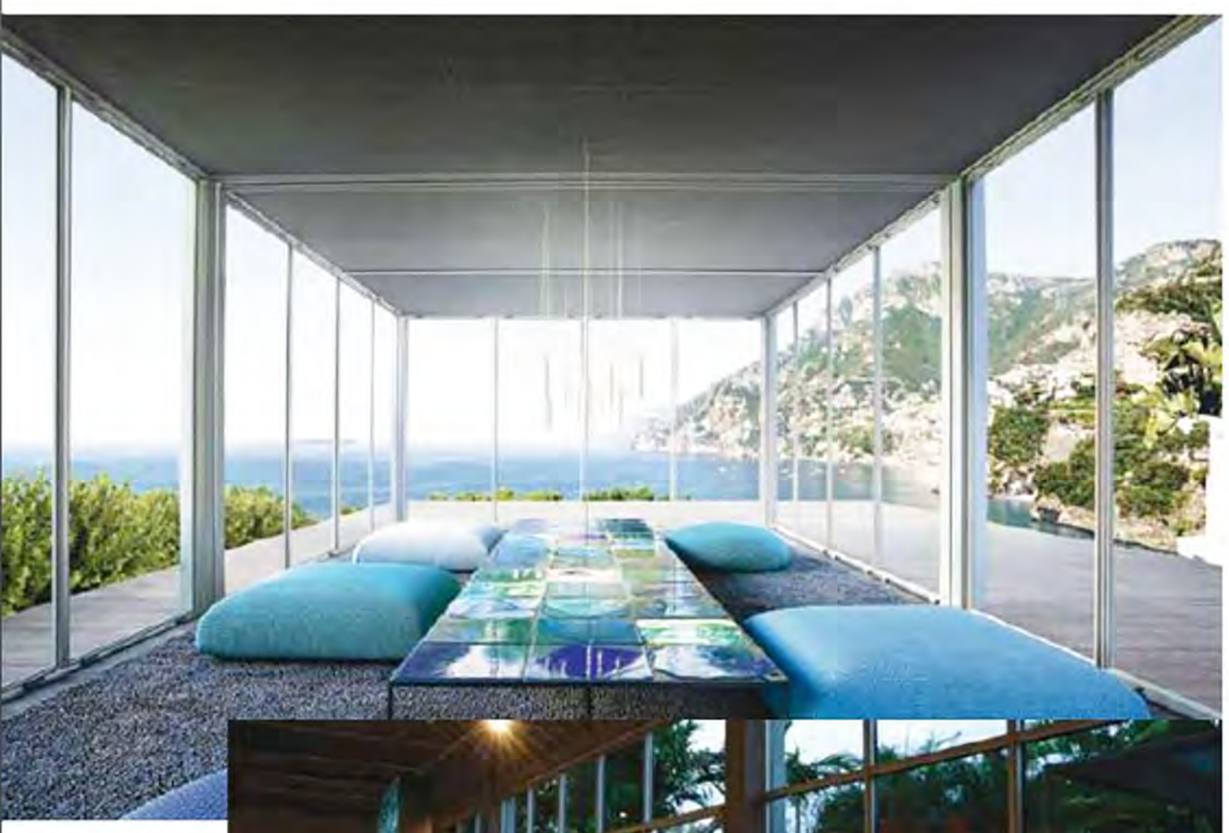
The Sciara walls on display reflect different chromatic and compositional approaches. The result of a decade of research, each wall explores how the size, arrangement and tonalities of the tiles can generate infinitely customisable surfaces, evoking the expressive power of a painted canvas. For this occasion, the visual strength of Sciara defines Paola Lenti's design through the special project The Sea of Sicily: three large special-edition tables forming a chromatic continuum with which Marella Ferrera celebrates the island's coastal waters.

Like a snorkelling journey, the nine-metre span of the tables reveals, through fused glass, transparent waters mingling with the fine, pale sand typical of the Agrigento coast. Continuing the exploration, one reaches pebble shores where the sea deepens into saturated greens that fade into turquoise and finally into an increasingly impenetrable blue. This is the colour of the sea surrounding the Aeolian Islands, volcanic lands with almost black seabeds formed by lava.

SIKELIA presents a vision of beauty born from a creative collaboration driven by a strong inclination towards experimentation and a shared desire to transcend disciplinary boundaries.

Sciara is a collection of tables, side tables and consoles born from the dialogue between material and colour. The surfaces, crafted entirely by hand, are always different from one another, making each piece unique and one of a kind. Vibrant textures—surprisingly irregular or evocative of natural forms—express the primordial force of the volcanic landscapes that inspire the collection. A contemporary language that unites aesthetic research with artisanal expertise.

Designed to integrate harmoniously into architectural projects, Sciara elements can be used to clad vertical surfaces, both indoors and outdoors. Their versatility allows for applications in residential and contract settings, while their material character engages in dialogue with architecture, enhancing volumes and geometries. A design solution that combines aesthetic value with the uniqueness and personality of an exclusively handcrafted process.



Founded in 1994, Paola Lenti is internationally recognised for its innovative approach to design products and its unmistakable interpretation of colour. In thirty years of activity, the company has created a collection of exclusive, eco-friendly technical fabrics and materials, available in hundreds of shades. Paola Lenti's indoor and outdoor collections, as well as its architectural complements, are displayed in the most important international showrooms

SIKELIA exhibe una valiosa colección de obras únicas inspiradas en Sicilia, creadas por la artista entre 1993 y 2000 y conservadas en su archivo histórico en el Palazzo Biscari de Catania. "Mi encuentro con Paola Lenti me brindó la oportunidad de plasmar mi visión textil en espacios habitables, explorando las vastas superficies de los interiores domésticos e investigando el color de maneras que nunca hubiera explorado por mi cuenta" Marella Ferrera

SIKELIA presenta una visión de la belleza fruto de una colaboración creativa, impulsada por una fuerte inclinación hacia la experimentación y un deseo compartido de trascender las fronteras disciplinarias. Sciara es una colección de mesas, mesitas auxiliares y consolas nacida del diálogo entre material y color con superficies elaboradas íntegramente a mano, siempre diferentes entre sí, lo que hace que cada pieza sea única e irrepetible. Texturas vibrantes, sorprendentemente irregulares o que evocan formas naturales, expresan la fuerza primordial de los paisajes volcánicos que inspiran la colección.

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