

A label/labour stonework studio tickled by cultural and functional heritage.



Rose-Quartz Asymmetric Earrings, 'Blunts' series

Serpentine Chita Discus Ring, 'Blunts' series

Studio DO is a stone cutting atelier based in Antwerp, founded by Dana Seachuga & Octave Vandeweghe. Driven by their affection for stone cutting they research the material and cultural role of (gem)stones within the realm of functional objects. Using basic interventions, shapes and aesthetics, they strive for the minimal action necessary to give a rock a (traditional) function.

'Gemma Ex Lapide' is the budding project of Studio DO. The Latin phrase could be translated as 'jewel gained from a stone' or 'gemstone extracted from a rock'. The project explores the core relationship between stones and jewellery, while it also bridges between body and space.



Serpentine Chita Discus Ring, 'Blunts' series



A jewel to adorn,
a rock to display.



Hematite Moonscape pendant, 'Blunts' series

For this project Studio DO works with stones in an exploratory manner, while also reflecting on the origin of (gem)stones in jewellery. This results in a series of contemporary objects expressing authenticity on various levels. They seek for particularities in a historical/traditional perspective, and on the other hand the specific characteristics that each stone obtains. The fashioning of each object begins by core-drilling, extracting a perfect or non-perfect cylinder or tube. Hence a simple geometric stone segment is made, differing from the raw form of the rock. This working method visually embodies the (sometimes contradictory) relationship between natural and man-made creations.

'Gemma Ex Lapide'

The project reflects itself through three different series:

Blunts,
Minimals,
Studies.



Rose-Quartz Ring, 'Minimals' series

Tiger-Eye Long Earrings, 'Blunts' series

‘Blunts’

With the exquisite ‘Blunts’ series the character of each stone comes to life in an expressive and bold way, resulting in eccentric and flaunting stones to wear.



Heliotrope Chunky Bracelet, silver chain and lock, ‘Blunts’ series

Gem of a rock

‘Minimals’

The ‘Minimals’ series takes a more sober and convenient direction. By integrating more basic elements these pieces become more approachable as a wearable jewel.



Striped Jasper Pendant, Brass chain, ‘Minimals’ series

‘Studies’

The ‘Studies’ give an impression on the essence of the concept in a more sculptural format, manifested by a researching attitude, it showcases the origin of stones within the domain of jewellery.



Study IV, Smoky- Quartz, ‘Study’ series



Study I, Yellow Serpentine ; varied metals, oxidations, platings ‘Study’ series

To have a more complete impression of the project *Gemma ex Lapide*, please have a look at our website:
www.studio.do.be/label

About Studio DO

Based in Antwerp, the city of diamonds, Studio DO is connecting to the city's history related to stone cutting. Although the industry of diamond cutting is very small in relation to the past, the city of Antwerp is still an icon in diamond related business. The craft of cutting (semi-)precious gemstones on the other hand, disappeared almost entirely. The traditional (and often old fashioned) craft is labour intensive and the affordability of local production is troublesome.

Studio DO is investigating the craft to deliver a more contemporary approach and to make it functional within the current markets. Therefore they research how to refine traditional techniques towards a more sober making process, while learning as well how to employ new stone related technologies

Ideas often come to existence after recognising the beauty of a technical action and its mundane result. Thus traces and faults of raw material and the making process are kept, or even enhanced, and often play an aesthetic role within the final object. The basic interventions generate basic forms, and give way to a fated function.



Ruby-zoisite stone - in the making

The outcome showcases the relation between the chosen object and the rough material it is made from. They seek for the core relationship between stone and (varied) objects by carefully balancing between aspects such as heritage, function, esthetics and the potentiality of a found raw material. The results are objects adorning the body and domestic environment in various manners.



Study III, Red Ox Eye stone, 'Study' series

Studio DO | Label & Labour works on design projects, and takes commissions related to art, stones, objects and jewelry. Label & Labour stand along each other as one, becoming inseparable.

Label & Labour

Who is Studio DO

The atelier was founded by Dana Seachuga and Octave Vandeweghe. These two creatives work as well independently : Dana as a jewelry maker and Octave as an artist. For Studio DO they joined forces and share their creative visions and expertise.

Dana Seachuga

is a contemporary jewelry designer. Her jewelry pieces are known to balance on the boundary of being wearable and being an autonomous object. In both manners, substantively and technically, her work references ethnic and tribal influences.

Octave Vandeweghe

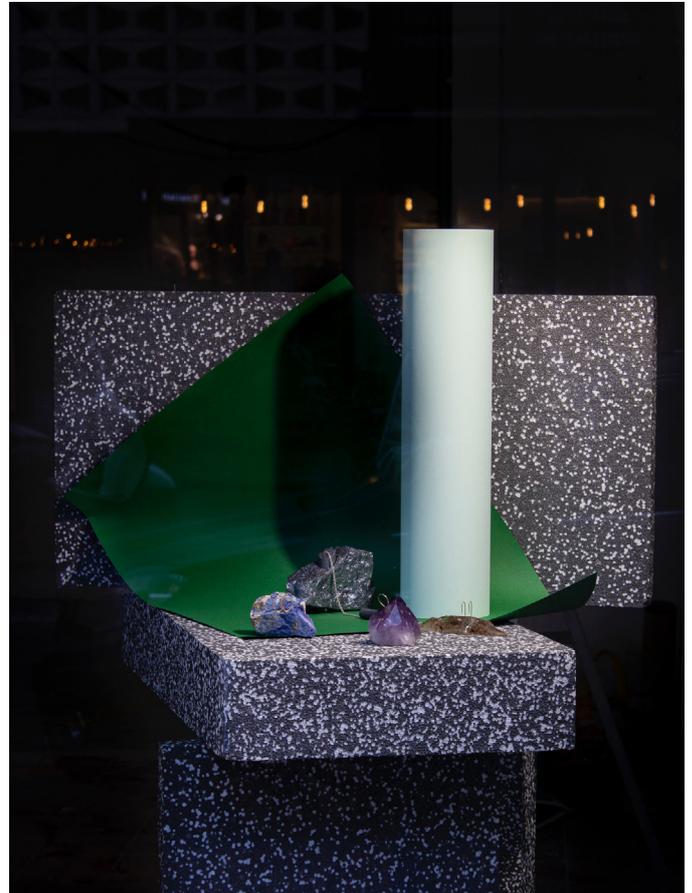
Octave Vandeweghe is an artist who mainly initiates objects and sculptures that maintain a pseudo design and artefact attitude. With a fascination for customs and prehistoric objects, he seeks the tension between nature and culture.

Window Displays

In the last months of 2020, DO started Launching their object label. Being a labour driven studio and facing the current circumstances, these are new ways of thinking and doing. Currently, the objects are not represented in any physical store or gallery. Therefore three window displays were set up at two different locations for the winter holidays.



Window display - Dumortierlaan 112 Knokke-Heist



Window display - Lippenslaan 265 Knokke-Heist



Window display - Lippenslaan 265 Knokke-Heist

Vessels & More

Studio DO's trade, is domestic related stonework. Alongside the 'Gemma ex Lapide' debut project, ideas for divers functional objects such as vessels and mirrors have been developing continuously.

Since the beginning of 2021, the researching and experimenting phase for their upcoming Vessel Project is rolling. As the first fruit, a Sodalite rock was chosen to become a flower 'landscape' vessel.



To lift a corner of
the veil.

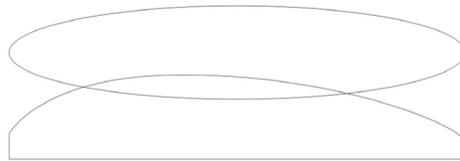
Exploring the technical qualities of minerals and stones, the mirroring characteristic of certain species such as pyrite, hematite, silicium,... has triggered a first attempt to implement this feature into the making of a poetic object. Made from an industrial silicon remnant, this forerunner, is the beginning of a lurking expansion of DO's product and project range.



'Sodalite Landscape Vase', L. 230 ; W. 160 ; H. 240 mm, Yellow gold plated brass wire \varnothing 1,5 mm

'Silicon Eclipse Mirror' L. 110 ; W. 110 ; H. 10 mm, Synthetic silicon remnant ; Yellow gold plated brass \varnothing 8 mm, Pink gold plated Copper \varnothing 3 mm

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