



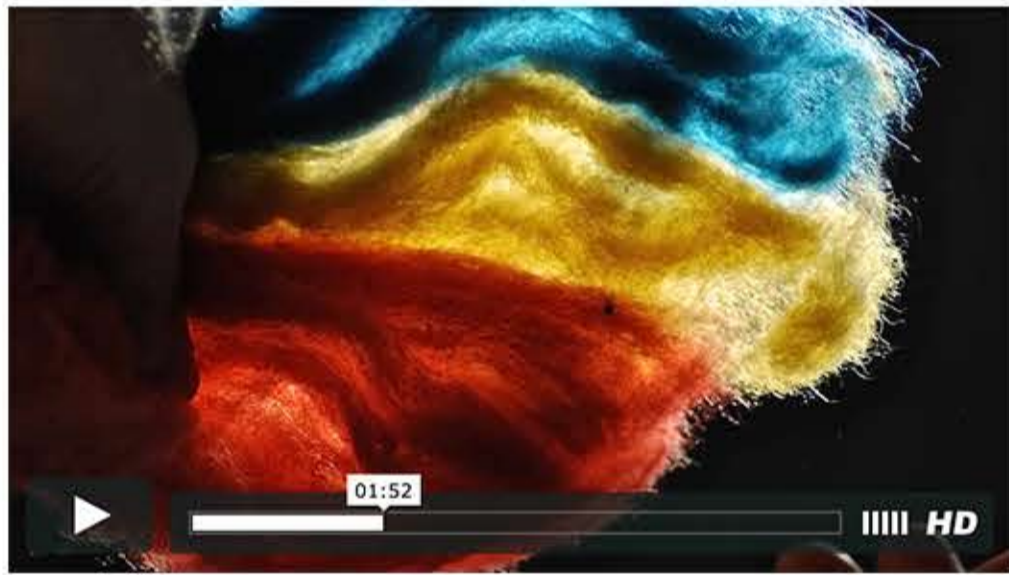
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Marco Guazzini fuses marble and wool into a hybrid stone



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Words Lauren Grieco

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PRATO – Italian designer Marco Guazzini dives into the identity of his hometown, merging two predominant materials sourced from its Mediterranean landscape: marble and wool.

Dubbed Marwoolus, the wool-infused marble is Guazzini's endearing representation of the textile-driven legacy which emerged from the Tuscan town's hard work and innovative creativity. Waste cuts of marble extracted from the coastal town of Pietrasanta – the same place where the marble for Michelangelo's David originated – is melted into a liquid paste. The designer combines the dyed yarns with the liquidized stone and then pours the mixture into moulds. Textile fibres in rainbow hues float within the concoction until it hardens into solid slabs.

Characterized by vibrant veins, the variegated blocks can be cut for use in any application including products, tapestries, tiles and surfaces. 'The result is a material that could remind you of the marble with its typical streaks but at a more detailed look it reveals its main characteristic, which is an interference pattern composed of casually strewn fibres,' says Guazzini.

Exclusively conceived for Gallery S. Bensimon in Paris, a pair of bespoke objects are sculpted from a light and dark iteration of the vibrant mixed material. Two rows of pillars rising from geometric plinths are informed by remains of an 8th century Yemeni temple. Tempio del Sole, or Sun Temple, channels the solar cycle with veins of lime green, turquoise and black wool on white stone while Tempio della Luna, or Moon Temple, alludes to the lunar cycle with orange and white wool veins on black stone.

Photos Beppe Brancato

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