

# MATTHEW MCCORMICK LIGHTS UP

The Canadian lighting designer makes his Milan debut at Rosanna Orlandi

By James McLachlan



**ABOVE** McCormick and Halo lamps, designed for – and inspired by – Bottega Gold prosecco

**ICON** Can you explain the inspiration for the Halo lamp?

**MM** The idea of a ring-like pendant had been floating around in my sketch book (and my head) for quite some time, so when I was commissioned to create a custom installation for an Italian prosecco brand, Bottega Gold, it seemed like a natural fit.

With any project, I like to understand the space itself, and what would best complement it. I also take into account the client's needs, so as to help further inform my creative process. When I was challenged with the task to create a lighting installation that spoke to a brand

well known for its striking gold bottle and effervescence, I took all those elements into consideration to create a fixture that somehow resembled floating bubbles affixed on a gold housing. As I try to achieve in all my work, Halo displays the search for hybrid pieces that convey the precision of geometrical objects and the close, personal touch of jewellery.

**ICON** How great a challenge was Halo in terms of engineering?

**MM** Although it seems that nothing much has changed since Halo first debuted, we've been tirelessly refining the light. We've gone through 11 iterations of the housing alone, from removing visible mechanical fasteners, to incorporating a tongue-and-groove assembly, to engineering all our own proprietary components and experimenting with various finishes. Needless to say, the process isn't always linear. Ideas are constantly changing and updating, and so I have to make room in my process for this. To achieve the best form, we've also been exploring more sculptural permutations of the Halo.

**ICON** Have you made any adjustments in order to bring it to a wider audience?

**MM** Absolutely. As a part of creating bespoke lighting with limited lead times and budgets, the final product begs to be revisited and refined. By fully resolving these pendants as a modular system, we provide them with an inherent ability to suit almost any environment. Making them dimmable was the first big hurdle, but was a key aspect of making them suited for a larger audience. The next was taking it from an exclusive, custom-designed product to a mass-market offering that is ready for global distribution.

**ICON** Is this your first time showing in Milan?

**MM** Yes. After Halo's debut at a local trade show in Vancouver, it received so much attention that I decided to refine its design further and to take it into production. We believe Milan is the best international platform to launch it and we have been very lucky to be invited to exhibit at Rosanna Orlandi's gallery, where we'll be presenting a bespoke composition named Black Mirror too. We are very excited. ♦