

# Three Star Books

Simon Starling  
27 Homemade Henningsen Lamps  
(+ 1 Average Lamp)  
Published Spring 2011

Dimensions of the book: 30 x 40 cm.  
Hard cover with one color silkscreen  
32 sheets of tracing paper printed in 4 colors

The edition is limited to 130 signed and numbered copies

Dimensions of the *Average Lamp*:  
Aluminium  
47 (Diameter) x 31 (Height) cm

In 27 Homemade Henningsen Lamps (+ 1 Average Lamp) Simon Starling exposes aesthetics to mathematics in a whimsical project with cast-iron logic. Over the course of several years, Starling produced a number of homemade versions of one of Modernism's most characteristic lamps, Poul Henningsen's «PH5.» The original lamp consists of a series of overlapping metal shades that produce an elegant yet unmistakably period-looking light fixture.

In twenty-seven versions of this design classic, assembled from elements found in junkshops and flea markets, including metal lampshades, and the occasional cooking pot lid or wok, Starling approximated the beauty and balance of the original lamp. As Starling himself has stated, "Each Homemade Henningsen Lamp stands as a kind of retrospective prototype. As a group of related objects they are like a set of recurring 'first thoughts' for a much-celebrated lamp that already exists in mass production. Their construction, in the spirit of any prototype or model, is an attempt to 'think with one's hands'; to learn by doing. The idea of reiterating or re-enacting the design process returns the object to a state of innocence, moving back in time to a moment when the lamp remained a speculative dream – a reverse shift from capital to potential."

At the end of the series, Starling decided to produce a lamp which would be the average of all the twenty-seven previous versions by generating a mean size and shape – a attempt to return to the mental image of the PH5 lamp that haunts the 27 improvised originals. He worked with a company of metal spinners in Berlin to produce his industrially made (though still artisanal) lamp. The "average" version was generated by morphing images on computer which unified their often irregular shapes into a single 3D rendering which was then used to produce the wooden formers for spinning the various shades

These drawings (executed in a rainbow palette) are featured in the work for Three Star Books, as well as a photographic image of each of the homemade lamps. The final version, in both graphic, hand-crafted, and photographic form is the conclusion of the series featured in the book Starling has created. The deluxe version of this publication is accompanied by an "Average Lamp" both encased within a hexagonal wooden box.

In a tradition of "remakes" and reconnections with historical prototypes, Starling uses his knowledge of design history and an extraordinary ability to turn craft or even mundane activities such as cycling or boating, into art. Playful redeployments of objects appropriated from the history of design have already occurred in other works, such as a carbon fibre riff on the "superleggera" of Gio Ponti (TK). The present work adds an interesting new dimension to these concerns.

By taking his own original series of "remakes" and making a series of production drawings for them after the fact, Starling parallels the work of artists such as Tobias Rehberger, or Oliver Mosset, who, in related works for Three Star Books play on the importance of the concept rather than the medium or sequence of steps. Film, sculpture, or photography can precede the draughtsmanship that traditionally gave rise to an object.

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## COLOPHON:

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Printing by Executive Artists, Paris  
Binding by Atoma, Brussels, Belgium  
Covers by CPMC, Paris, France  
Technical drawings by Sven Pfeiffer  
Production of the morphed aluminum lamp by  
Annette Uberlein at Hugo Bräuer Metallwaren,  
Berlin, Germany  
Endpaper photo by Jens Ziehe

With thanks to the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Canada  
and Lesley Johnstone; Uffe Holm; Meaghan Kent; Maria Elisa Marchini;  
Casey Kaplan Gallery, New York; The Modern Institute, Glasgow;  
neugerriemschneider Gallery, Berlin; Galleria Franco Noero, Turin.

The edition is limited to 130 signed and numbered  
copies.

Trade edition:  
70 copies, 2 artist's proofs, 3 hors-commerce.

Deluxe edition:  
50 copies numbered in Roman numerals accompanied  
by the morphed lamp in metal, with 2 artist's proofs  
and 3 hors-commerce.

This is edition n

2011, Three Star Books, Paris

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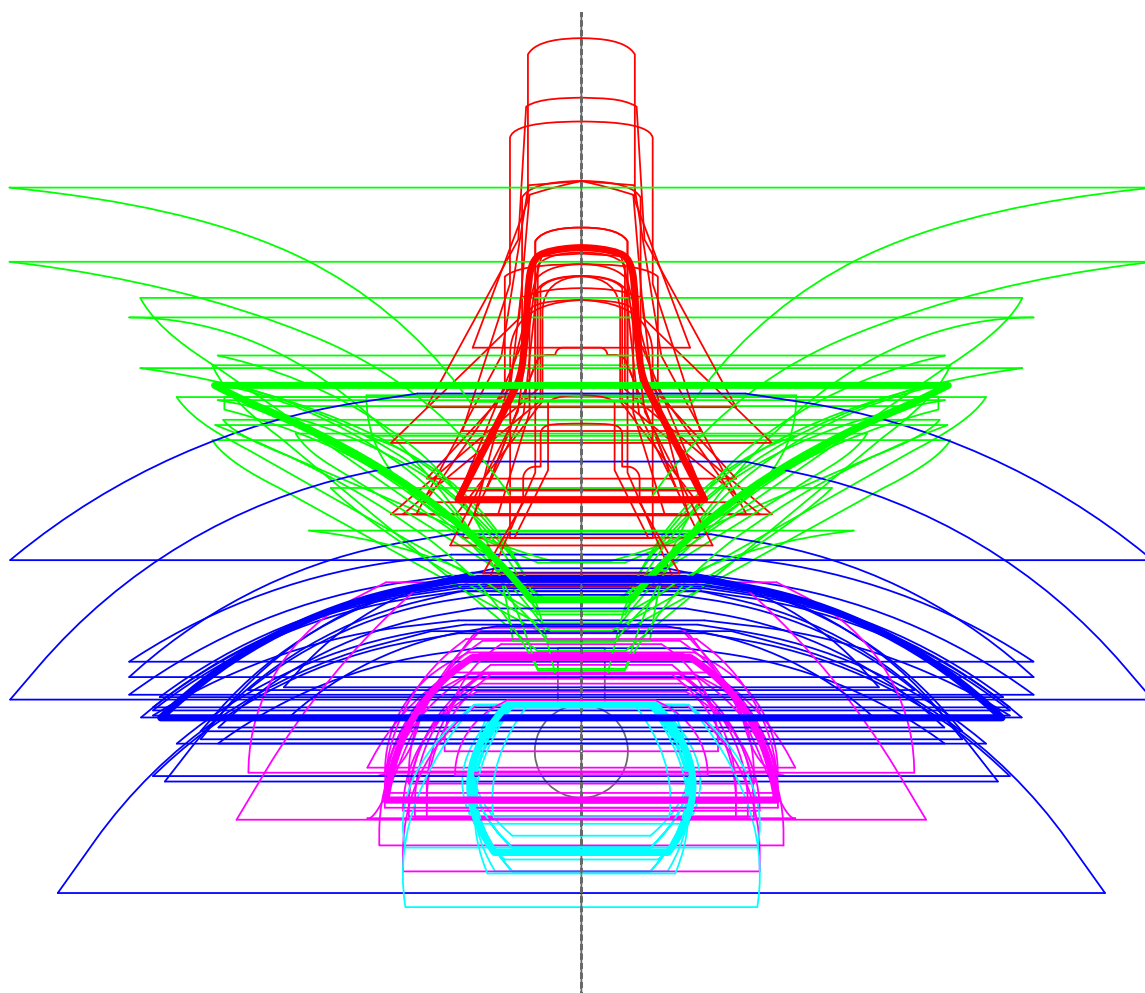
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Simulation of overlapping pages of the book printed on tracing paper.

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Technical drawing for the fabrication of the *Average Lamp* as reproduced in the book.

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