

Circus in town

The five characters of the “Alessi Circus” collection — “The Jester” the corkscrew, “The Strongman” the nutcracker, “The Ballerina” the musical box, “The Ringleader” call bell the and “The Candyman” the candy dispenser — build upon the typical production methods of a high-quality manufacturer like Alessi.

They are a fine example of Alessi’s capacity to produce objects that are difficult and complex. They are top-level objects along the lines of the pieces produced by Carl Fabergé, jeweler to the Tsars of Russia renowned for his namesake eggs and trinkets made of precious metals and stones, but who also designed table clocks and many objects for domestic use (albeit in an imperial ‘household’) that are much sought after today on the collectors’ market.

Not to mention that they might also bring to mind the automata from the end of the eighteenth century by Jaquet-Droz, the Swiss mechanics and watchmakers. These robotic characters, brilliantly designed in terms of technique and requiring very delicate production, appear as if they could even write and play music... maybe I’m going a bit too far. However, it is sufficient to say that these refined manufacturing processes may well represent a way forward that is still open to European manufacturers.

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