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Clouds of Comfort

Constance Guisset and Petite Friture create a sofa that encourages dreaming.

When Constance Guisset began working with Petite Friture in 2010—collaborating on her Vertigo lamp—she felt instant kinship with its director, Amélie Du Passage. “I was seduced by her energy,” says Guisset. Her instincts proved right and the partnership has continued, most recently with the cloud-like Nubilo sofa, which Guisset describes as a place for dreaming. Using a multitude of pillows, Nubilo invites people to throw themselves down and be immersed in the cushions.

While Guisset knew exactly what she wanted, it was a two-year process to realize the final product. “The biggest challenge was to find the most accurate solutions while

keeping the initial energy and concept,” she says. “It was important to make the right choices to create the sofa I had dreamt of.”

There were many tests and adjustments on everything from the shape of the pillows to the type of fabric used. “It evolved a lot,” she says. “Nubilo doesn’t obey the general typology of sofas. It’s a cross between a two-seater sofa and a daybed.”

While changing the design several times made things a challenge, Guisset believes it was worth it. “It was a long process,” she admits. “But I think we needed that time in order to obtain the result we wanted.” Here, Guisset speaks to how she realized this object of comfort. **■**

1
“From the start, I knew there would be a lot of cushions enveloped by a metal foil. I was adamant that the sofa needed to be very comfortable, simple, and resistant.”

2
“The depth of the sofa was a major issue. We tried it four different ways before finding the right one.”

3
“The work on the fabrics was very important. After many tests, we found the most harmonious mix of textures and colors.”

4
“We put a lot of thinking into what the right pillow should be—not round, but oval.”

CONSTANCE GUISSSET (b. 1976) studied economics and business and spent a year at the Japanese parliament in Tokyo before she chose to focus on design. In 2007, she graduated from ENSCI – Les Ateliers and founded her studio. She won the 2008 Grand Prix du Design de la ville de Paris, the 2009 Public Prize at the Design Parade in Villa Noailles, and 2010 Designer of the Year at both Maison et Objet and the Audi Talent Awards.