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JUXTAPOSED: POWER – THE SECOND SUBJECT IN THE JUXTAPOSED SERIES

Northern California, USA: *Power* is the highly anticipated second subject in the Juxtaposed Series of collectible bookshelves by Mike & Maaïke for blankblank. *Power* is being produced in a limited and numbered edition of fifty and will be available January 12, 2010 exclusively through blankblank. The Juxtaposed Series of reclaimed hardwood shelves is each precision-milled for specific books and represent specific subjects. Mike & Maaïke's intention with each edition is to equally represent the diversity of its subject. The first edition, *Religion*, released in 2007 as a limited edition of fifty, has been internationally exhibited, awarded, and recognized in the art, design, and academic communities.

San Francisco-based designers Mike & Maaïke chose Athmeya Jayaram, a doctoral candidate in Political Theory at the University of California, Berkeley who previously worked in international development, to curate *Power*. Focusing particularly on democratic theory and global justice, Jayaram specializes in analytical approaches to ethics and political philosophy. *Power* consists of seven texts that represent the political ideals of liberalism, communism, elitism, absolutism, democracy, theocracy and anarchy. Of *Power*, Jayaram says "if we must address these conflicting ideals, how can we do it? What should we value most – freedom or security, merit or equality? And who should decide – the few or the many, individuals or groups, man or God? The answers in this collection, along with the ideas that inspired them and those that followed, form the core of the major traditions of political thought." [Read the Curator's Statement.](#)

Originally from The Netherlands, Maaïke Evers brings a progressively Dutch and uniquely female perspective to design. Equally inspired by the tradition of craft and the potential of industry, she is as comfortable designing technology products as she is forging jewelry. Mike likes to bend the rules of physics, while with a true California spirit, combines optimism, critical thinking, and truth as natural elements of his work. Their distinct backgrounds give Mike and Maaïke a unique perspective to their collaboration that often results in the unexpected. They share a thirst for experimentation as an alternative to strategy, developing strong conceptual foundations for products, furniture, wearables and art.

blankblank is an internationally recognized design collective based in Northern California that partners with artists and designers to produce art, furniture, lighting, and environments. Collaborators include Jill Dudensing, Mark Goetz, Mike & Maaïke, Tim Richartz and Rob Zinn.

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact blankblank at 916 775 1730.