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**THE HANG OF IT**  
Examples of Klenell's industrial design include, clockwise from top, 'Droplight', large, €356; small, €204, both for Örsjö Belysning. 'Icon' lamp, large, €430; small, €345, both for Moooi. 'Peg' bench, SEK5,000 (€530), for Pyra. 'Beamon' chair, SEK5,812 (€615), for Miljöexpo. 'Sweepflight', €354, for Örsjö Belysning.

**MATTI KLENELL ▲**

Swedish designer Matti Klenell believes that his functional background – acquired at Konstfack, a Swedish art college with strong Bauhaus leanings – has set him in good stead to ride out the current wave of design-art, while nevertheless dipping his toes into the water. Indeed, Klenell has embraced both the functional and the artistic, designing with manufacturers to create practical objects, while also working as a glass artist on pieces for the Inger Molin gallery in Stockholm.

To an extent, his functional and his artistic work influence each other, but

the trick, says Klenell, is to try to keep them separate. 'It is very important to choose your playground before you start designing,' he explains. 'Creating my glass art for a solo show is completely different from designing a set of stacking chairs for a client.'

However, Klenell doesn't believe his functional industrial design work has any less personality than his art work. 'I came across lots of drawings the other day that I had labelled "only functional", but I think lots of those objects have big characters. Somehow, they are more expressive; it's

like the work of artist Thomas Demand, which is striking because of its normality.'

The conical 'Icon' lights for Moooi (pictured), where Klenell's brief was to design 'nothing', takes this idea to the extreme, while his spherical lights for Örsjö Belysning (also pictured) equally involved putting the client's needs first. 'Understanding what society wants is vital to being a designer. If you just do art, you're only dealing with yourself; you're not reaching out to an audience. That just wouldn't be enough for me.' ★  
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