Hanging lamp   Susi Berger, Ueli Berger
Wolkenlampe   1970

At first, Susi (1938–2019) and Ueli Berger (1937–2008) wanted to make an inflatable cloud with an integrated neon tube. But they then took advantage of the new vacuum-forming process to create an amorphous glowing object. Inspired by Pop Art, the *Cloud Lamp* embodies the antithesis to functional design.

Polystyrene materials are typically stiff and hard, but when heated the thermoplastic becomes rubbery and pliable, allowing it to be formed like a membrane. Through the vacuum-forming process, small series of shells or hollow bodies can be produced with a minimum of effort. The designer and artist couple Susi and Ueli Berger used this novel process to create an amorphous cloud, first dividing the mold horizontally into two halves, and then using a vacuum to cause the hot polystyrene membrane to cling to the molds. Once cooled, the shells retain their form and can be effortlessly joined back together thanks to their congruent edges. Unlike the turned or pressed rotary forms abundant in the world of lamps, symmetry is alien to this cloud—it presents itself differently from every angle. Hung freely from the ceiling like a lantern, it shines brightly as an antithesis to *Gute Form*. It is not

a tool with which light can be aimed or directed but simply a glowing body, a cloud in a cartoon sky. The Basel-based manufacturer J. Lüber, which was looking for small, innovative pieces of furniture to add to its product range, launched serial production of the *Cloud Lamp* in 1976. It was made by J. Lüber until 1979, then in 1999 it was produced in a limited edition by the Design Collection of the Museum für Gestaltung Zürich, and since 2002 it has been sold by Wohnbedarf. (Renate Menzi)

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