

DESIGN MIAMI 2015

6 Must-See Design Miami Trends, From Psychedelia to Furniture for Selfies

Wednesday, December 9, 2015, by [Janelle Zara](#)

Amid the madness of Art Basel Miami Beach, the general consensus among fairgoers this year was that Design Miami was the sister fair to turn to when it's time to chill out. By comparison, Design Miami is smaller, it's more cohesive, and it always offers plenty of places to sit. More importantly, the fair's very international roster of exhibitors brought their finest game last week. Perusing the booths, we caught wind of the best trends to look forward to.

1. A new focus on African designers

Each edition of the fair for the past several years has been dominated by European galleries—namely the Paris-based powerhouses that have cornered the market on Charlotte Perriand and Jean Prouvé. This year, however, the fair shone a new spotlight on emerging contemporary African designers and artists, thanks in large part to Cape Town-based gallery Southern Guild, the only African gallery to have a steady presence at the fair. A major highlight of the gallery's booth was Porky Hefer's "Fiona Blackfish," a suspended, handcrafted chair in the shape of an orca whale with a comfy sheepskin tongue.



New York gallery Friedman Benda brought works by Cape Town's Andile Dyalvane, who's also represented by Southern Guild in his hometown. The textured surfaces of his ceramics pay homage to the skin-carving and scarring traditions of the South African Xhosa tribe.

Nigerian-born, London-based Yinka Shonibare's "Windy Chair I (Orange and Blue)" took center stage at Carpenters Workshop Gallery, which now has locations in Paris, London, and New York. The piece's thin concrete body has been sculpted and painted to resemble a swath of traditional African fabric as a statement of anti-colonialism; its curves are also surprisingly comfortable to sit on.

Dyalvane's "An Unique 'Umbhaco' Vase, 2015." Photo via Christie's.

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