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# Inspiring Objects Abound at The Salon Art + Design Fair 2017

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Najla El Zein, *Distortion Bench 6*, 2017

Photo: Damien Arlettaz / Courtesy of Friedman Benda and Najla El Zein

Through their sheer magnetism, there are particular objects that will motivate your curiosity, at times in surprising ways. This weekend, The Salon Art + Design fair presents a wide variety of potentially piquant design in New York. Its display of furniture, decorative arts, and fine art ranges from historical works by distinguished artists to innovative pieces that employ unexpected materials and techniques from newer artists. Jill Boker, executive director of the Salon, notes that the fair “affords visitors the chance to consider such a mix of paradigms. We’re encouraging people to look at a range of art and objects, almost from a tabula rasa.”... Look out for Najla El Zein, a young Lebanese designer whose work is exhibited by major galleries like Carpenters Workshop Gallery and Friedman Benda. At the Salon, she will show pieces from her Distortion bench series that, she says, “treats the theme of distortion within a physical context but also a spatial and emotional one.” There is a juxtaposition between the cold, white concrete bench and the soft, round part of the distortion that Zein intends. It’s inspiring, and as you make your way through the Salon, you’ll notice that this kind of thoughtful, eye-catching design is all around.

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