

BLOUINARTINFO

The Blouin Guide: What to Expect at Design Miami/ Basel 2015

Design Miami/ Basel 2015 opens June 16 with curated exhibitions from 46 of the world's leading design galleries. Collectible furniture, lighting, ceramics, jewelry, and decorative arts will be available to view and purchase. To help you navigate the fair, we have broken down the event thematically. Click on the links for further reading.

CERAMICS

Ceramics are always strongly featured at the fair, and this year is no exception. In 2015, Korean designers presented by Seomi International and Friedman Benda are particularly strong, and the South African gallery Southern Guild showcases some exceptional works by designers exploring various African pottery traditions through the lens of contemporary crafts.

PLAYING WITH TRADITION / PLAYING WITH TECHNOLOGY

More so than other art forms, design is inextricably tied to the question of its own

manufacture: technologies, materials, production methods, but also questions of consumption, lifestyle, and cultural tradition inform its use. This is a very rich area of inquiry at this year's Design Miami/ Basel.

On one end of the spectrum, designers are again reclaiming traditional crafts, forms, and techniques, in a renewed push to re-integrate the past into the present: see the playful works by the Campana Brothers for Galleria O, or Armel Soyer's "antiques of the future." On the other end, digital technologies have opened up revolutionary potential in manufacturing, design, and decoration. Perhaps the most intriguing works at this year's fair will be some extraordinary experiments in hi-tech manufacture. See our article for Matthias Bengtsson's table grown out of a digital seed, Gareth Neal's George Chest created with a computer-controlled routing machine, and Bae Se Hwa's futuristic bent-wood furniture.

SCULPTURAL

Jana Perkovic, *THE BLOUIN GUIDE: WHAT TO EXPECT AT DESIGN MIAMI/ BASEL 2015*, June 14, 2015

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Striking a fine balance between decoration and material exploration, but largely eschewing the requirement of use, design as sculpture will also feature strongly at this year's Design Miami/ Basel. From the explorations of material by Byung Hoon Choi at Friedman Benda and Daniella Mooney at Southern Guild, to the exploration of use by Nacho Carbonell and Mathias Kiss for Armel Soyer, these are works ask conceptual questions about how we live, and why. Our favorites? Eske Rex's series of enigmatic portraits explore tension within composition for Maria Wettergren, and the display by Carpenters Workshop Gallery (Nacho Carbonell, Studio Job, Vincent Dubourg), whose curator Aurelie Julien we have recently profiled.

MID-CENTURY CLASSICS

Design Miami/ Basel firmly focuses on the design of the 20th century and onwards, and no round up of the fair would be complete without a focus on the highlights among the mid-century classics. The iconic Scandinavian furniture designers of the modernist era will be represented by Dansk Mobelkunst Gallery and Galerie Eric Philippe, while the Italian mid-century innovators will be presented by Marc Heiremans and Galleria O. A highlight is the retrospective of works by Jacques Biny, revolutionary French lighting designer, and his manufacturing brand, Luminosite, presented by Pascal Cuisinier, whom we recently interviewed.

THE TABLE

In our selection of extraordinary table designs, we set to demonstrate that the table is having its time in the limelight. After a century of chairs, this year we will be seeing some extraordinary exploration of the table, both in concept, material, and fabrication technique.

SATELLITE GALLERIES

Additional programming supports the fair's museum-quality gallery exhibits. This will include the first edition of Design Curio in Basel, after its great success in Miami last December, and the second edition of Design at Large, curated by hotelier André Balazs. Fashion, jewelry, watches, and cars will feature with a wealth of lifestyle satellite events.

Design Miami/ Basel takes place June 16-21 in Basel.

- See more at: <http://uk.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/1178782/the-blouin-guide-what-to-expect-at-design-miami-basel-2015#sthash.pSQDxwcT.dpuf>

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