

how to spend it

Five hotspots to head to at Design Miami/Basel

It's all about the spectacle at this year's Swiss design fair. Here's where the cool crowd will be seen...



Watercolour, an 18-piece metal furniture series by nendo | Image: Courtesy of Friedman Benda and artist. Akihiro Yoshida

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A number of rare and unique treasures will be shown at this year's fair, some of them never before seen in public. Of these, French artist Claude Lalanne's fantastical bronze and copper bed at Galerie Mitterand, which was made for a private commission in 1999, is top of the list. Equally breathtaking is The Gold Grotto, a copper and brass wall sculpture by Pierre Sabatier made in 1999 for the staircase of Monte Carlo nightclub Jimmy'z. This decadent piece is the star of the show at Magen H Gallery. Less standout but equally sophisticated is midcentury French-Hungarian designer Mathieu Matégot's one-off walnut, Formica, metal and brass cabinet at Galerie Matthieu Richard. Made for the designer's own home near Fontainebleau in 1958, it oozes character.

nendo at Friedman Benda

For the fourth year running, this cult New York gallery is using its space to present a solo exhibition – this time, the spotlight turns on avant-garde Japanese studio nendo. On show will be its Watercolour collection, an 18-piece metal furniture series inspired by the effects of watercolour on paper. With its delicate washes of blue ink over matte-white-painted steel, it promises to be as ethereal as the rest of designer Oki Sato's output.

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