

ELLE DECOR

12 THINGS FROM DESIGN MIAMI THAT WE'RE TOTALLY OBSESSED WITH

From a ring that doubles as a coffee cup to chairs made out of cardboard.

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Photography By James Harris

Design Miami returned to the Magic City this year, and with it droves of collectors, tastemakers, and, in our case, editors—all eager to see everything that's up-and-coming in contemporary (and historic!) design. It was a big year not just for the [fair](#) itself, but also for the city's Design District, which was abuzz with events, showroom openings, art and design installations, and other activations.

This year, we hit the ground running and scoured the fair for the very best pieces to have on your radar. Here, a closer look at our annual edit, from jewelry and ceramics to lighting and furniture.



Cristina Grajales Gallery

1

VIRGINIA SAN FRATELLO'S "YOUR TECHNOTIMBER FANTASY"

Design doesn't always have to take itself seriously. At [Cristina Grajales Gallery](#), [Virginia San Fratello](#)'s new floor lamps really shone—quite literally—for their unabashed sense of whimsy. Composed of 3D-printed “fur,” the project is meant to elicit happiness first and foremost, as is evident through the works’ names, which range from the sugarcoated “My SugarPuff Love” to the broody “Blood of My Enemies.” Grajales arranged the pieces together as a sort of “forest” of technicolor totems. —*Helena Madden*



Ibeabuchi Benson Ugochukwu

2

NIFEMI MARCUS-BELLO'S "MOON" ROOM DIVIDER

Best in show was Nigerian designer [Nifemi Marcus-Bello](#)'s cast aluminum room divider at [Marta](#) gallery's booth. Part of his Oríkì (Act II): Tales by Moonlight series, the screen was painstakingly made from recycled aluminum, intended, one day, to be recycled again. Equal parts poetic and functional, it shows the designer at his very best. —*Camille Okhio*



Courtesy Of R And Company.

3

ROBERTO LUGO'S "THE MAN WHO CARRIED THE ICE BOX ON HIS BACK UP THE MOUNTAIN: ALBERTO AYALA"

A monumental work by [Roberto Lugo](#) was on view at [R & Company](#)'s booth—dominating its front wall. At 50 inches tall, the piece serves as the canvas for Lugo's early life. What at first appears to be a reference to Greek amphorae is actually a nod to the orange and black colors of incarcerated men's garb. Along with scenes of Lugo's neighborhood in Philadelphia, there are also depictions of Afro picks and graffiti tags Lugo made with his cousins' tags. —C.O.



Courtesy Of Elisabetta Cipriani

4

JOY BC'S "COLONNA" BRACELET

British artist and jeweler Joy BC's newest piece, "Colonna," at [Elisabetta Cipriani](#)'s booth takes the shape of a Greek column. The refined ruin is articulated via breaks in the column's design made entirely of recycled 18-karat yellow gold and sterling silver. —C.O.



Todd Merrill Studio

5

DRAGA & AUREL'S "FLARE TABLE IV"

Design duo [Draga & Aurel](#) has long worked with resin in their practice, but their Flare series, presented with [Todd Merrill Studio](#), represents a new foray into Lucite. Similar themes of color and transparency apply, with vibrant hues layered on top of one another to create a jewel-like final product that really shines when it hits the light. —*H.M.*



Courtesy Of Ornamantum.

6

MELANIE GEORGACOPOULOS'S "DIAMOND FISHBONE" BANGLE

Melanie Georgacopoulos's "Diamond Fishbone" at [Ornamantum Gallery](#)'s booth is a technological feat. Constructed from layers of peacock mother-of-pearl, bonded together and then carved into the form of a bangle, the bracelet was then incised with a 3D, cushionlike design and finished with two old mine-cut diamonds set into 18-karat gold. Perfection. —C.O.



Hayden Phipps And Southern Guild

7

STANISLAW TRZEBINSKI'S "HOLLOW PROMISE IV"

At [Southern Guild](#), Kenyan-born sculptor and designer [Stanislaw Trzebinski](#)'s work contemplates an uncertain future, one in which climate change has progressed to the point of disaster and devastation. A series of vessels represents what might remain on Earth after such a cataclysm. Dubbed "Hollow Promise," this work resembles dead coral and is made of a blue-green patinated bronze. Beautiful yet poignant in its sobering message. —*H.M.*



Photography By Stéphane Aboudaram

8

WENDY ANDREU'S "MODHERA LOW TABLE IN BRASS"

A new collectible design gallery in Mumbai, [æquō](#), made its Design Miami debut this year, showcasing works from creative director Florence Louisy and others, like French designer [Wendy Andreu](#). Andreu's low table is an evolution of her Staple series, a collection of works characterized by minimalism and sharp geometries. For æquō, Andreu collaborated with a friend of gallery founder Tarini Jindal Handa, to create a high-shine brass version reminiscent of tiffin lunch boxes found in India. —*H.M.*



Courtesy Of SCAD

9

ANDREA ORTIZ'S ESPRESSO CUP-CUM-RING

Colombian artist Andrea Ortiz's "Offering Espresso-f me" stood out in [Savannah College of Art and Design](#)'s booth. The recent graduate's tongue-in-cheek sterling silver and porcelain work functions as both espresso cup and cocktail ring—the perfect antidote to a few highly caffeinated days of fair-going —C.O.



Hwang Jung Wook

10

BYUNG HOON CHOI'S "AFTERIMAGE OF BEGINNING 021-576" CABINET

Korean artist Byung Hoon Choi's cabinet at [Friedman Benda's](#) booth was one of the more subtle statements at the fair. Constructed from ash wood and beautifully finished with black urethane, the cabinet's most compelling feature is the natural stones it sits on. Hitting rock bottom, it turns out, can be a good thing! —C.O.



Courtesy Of Wexler Gallery.

11

JOMO TARIKU'S "MEEDO" CHAIR

We've seen Ethiopian-American designer Jomo Tariku's "Meedo" chair before, but this year we were thrilled about a new and improved version at [Wexler Gallery's](#) booth. Tariku's first foray into bronze makes you wonder why he didn't skip straight to the material in the first place. Joining the visual language of African American hair care (with the chair taking the form of an afro pick) with a centuries-long West and East African tradition of bronzesmithing, this new work is a seemingly simple revelation. — *C.O.*



GALLERY FUMI

12

MAX LAMB'S "(10) BOX" CHAIR

Gallery FUMI took home the award for best stand at this year's Design Miami, and it's not hard to see why. The booth included a wide range of works, many that used familiar materials in innovative ways, like Max Lamb's new Box series. Made of cardboard boxes—some left intact in their original form, others cut up and manipulated into new shapes—the collection encourages the viewer to rethink everyday materials. —*H.M.*