Aqua Creations' Lenses Lake was designed to shine a light on the vulnerable state of the world's freshwater lakes, while pointing to a harmonious path forward. The 17 silk shades were inspired by the shape of Geneva's Lake Leman. Photo © Aqua Creations

Highlights from Design Miami/ 2022

Sarah Hart
Dec 16, 2021

A look back at the year's crowning fair

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And that's a wrap! The 18th edition of Design Miami's Basilea fair has come to a close, and we couldn't be more thrilled by this year's iteration. The latter edition saw robust attendance, strong interest and contemporary sales across 90 galleries and 20 commissions, as well as a dynamic program of talks and special collaborations.

Paris-based Galerie Patrick Seguin's presentation at Design Miami/ 2022. Photo by James Harris Photography

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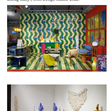
Our esteemed participants offered up an array of intriguing responses to this year's theme, The Golden Age: Looking to the Future. Conceived by Design Miami/ Universal Director Maria Cristina Orduña, the theme encouraged our participating galleries to explore the universal desire for a better, more idyllic tomorrow—a future of our own making—through the lens of design.

While it's impossible to list all of this year's wonderful moments, we've put together a roundup of a few of our favorites. Scroll on for a selection of highlights (a few among many!) from Design Miami/ 2022.



From top: AGD Projects (Mexico City) and Modernc Gallery (Philadelphia) at Design Miami/ 2022. Photo by James Harris Photography

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Galleries

This year's gallery program featured exceptional, thought-provoking design from eminent galleries and emerging contemporary galleries. Highlights included historical pieces, as well as contemporary design, sculpture, decorative arts, and ceramics, with a special emphasis on Brazilian, Mexican, Scandinavian, and Japanese design. Among the standout masterpieces by Pierre Chapo, Pierre Jeanneret, Philippe Hiraux, Charlotte Perriand, and Le Corbusier.

Sarah Myerscough Gallery (London) at Design Miami/ 2022. Photo by James Harris Photography

Sarah Myerscough Gallery (London) at Design Miami/ 2022. Photo by James Harris Photography

Sarah Myerscough presented a selection of work honoring our enduring connection to nature, as well as our responsibility to preserve it. Highlights included featured objects by some of today's most acclaimed craft-driven makers, including Christopher Kurtz, Lia Fiarelli, Fernando Campana, Gareth Neal, and Angela Damman (who created a stop-you in your tracks, eye-contemporary reimagining of the chandelier, hand-carved from sonoriana plant fiber), among others. The gallery's booth was also home to a wide range of the broader, recurring themes we witnessed throughout the fair—a celebration of natural forms and materials, as well as the mark of the hand. Meanwhile, at Magen H—a gallery known for pioneering revolutionary and significant design in sculpture, decorative arts, architecture, and ceramics, with a special emphasis on Brazilian and Scandinavian design—visitors were drawn to their and early-career and rare pieces, which featured Sommet, Philippe Hiraux, Charlotte Perriand, and Le Corbusier.

Magen H Gallery (New York) at Design Miami/ 2022. Photo by James Harris Photography

Magen H Gallery (New York) at Design Miami/ 2022. Photo by James Harris Photography

The fair also saw the successful debut of Dilettante42, a São Paulo-based gallery committed to supporting Brazilian designers. The gallery was awarded Best Historic Work for its José Zanine Caldas' Zanine Sculptural Dining Table (1973), arguably one of the most important pieces of furniture created by the Brazilian Modernist architect and designer. Made in a single piece of wood, the table's organic form and sculptural quality with its feet and only corner and the year 2021, when it became part of the collection of Flavio Santoro, gallery partner and Zanine collector.

Dilettante42 (São Paulo) at Design Miami/ 2022. Photo by James Harris Photography

Dilettante42 (São Paulo) at Design Miami/ 2022. Photo by James Harris Photography

Finally, London's Gallery FUMI—a longstanding champion of experimental, material-driven designers—presented a dreamy, naturally-lined installation of pieces by some of today's most exciting designers, including a pair of Max Lamb chairs that received the honor of Best Contemporary Work. Cleft Chair (Gold) and Cleft Chair (Platinum). Split from a single Sycamore log, the pieces are cast in bronze and finished with a gold and platinum patina so as to reveal the texture, before being covered in a 23.5 carat gold leaf and platinum leaf.

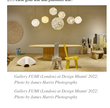
Gallery FUMI (London) at Design Miami/ 2022. Photo by James Harris Photography

Gallery FUMI (London) at Design Miami/ 2022. Photo by James Harris Photography

Curios

The Curio program invites designers, curators, thought-leaders, and gallerists to present cabinets of curiosity throughout the fair. Interrupted amongst Design Miami's booths, this year's Curio Program was synonymous with curiosity—regardless of today's design landscape. This year's Curios boasted several inspiring moments: responding to The Golden Age theme, ranging from reflective scenes of quiet beauty to bold, playful celebrations and poetic, timely critiques and commentary.

Highlights include winners of the Best Curio Award—a tie between Tolerie Factory (New York) and Bridal Garden (Los Angeles)—as well as Roberto Lugo's Village Potter Bodega, Gothers + SAAP Rocky, and Aqua Creations.



New York based Tolerie Factory's winning installation. Photo by James Harris Photography

New York based Tolerie Factory's winning installation. Photo by James Harris Photography

Tolerie Factory presented a booth inspired by the color blue, abstracting history's philosophers surrounding the color into a single, striking space, featuring works such as woven silk rugs by JT Pfuffler and selections from Jean Michel Frank's iconic Parchment collection furniture. Strell Gardner's installation provided a new collection of furniture and ceramic bird baths by LA based artist Lily Clark that reflect on the elemental facts of water and light, as well as new minimalist woodwork by Sara Lee Hartman and Cody Brown, the creative team behind Jacaranda studio Project.

LA's Strell Gardner presented a serene wellness featuring minimalist outdoor pieces by standout contemporary makers. Photo by James Harris Photography

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Meanwhile, the Village Potter Bodega—a collaboration between NYC gallery R & Company and Los Angeles based Philadelphia-based artist, activist, and educator Roberto Lugo—took the form of a neighborhood bodega, transforming Lugo's widely recognized digital platform, The Village Potter, into a physical, shoppable storefront. The pieces within captured Lugo's singular aesthetic and voice and his mission to foster inclusivity and conversation.

The Village Potter Bodega by Roberto Lugo, presented by R & Company. Photo by James Harris Photography

The Village Potter Bodega by Roberto Lugo, presented by R & Company. Photo by James Harris Photography

Also not to be missed? The elegant Light on Water installation by Israeli design studio Aqua Creations (pictured at left). These elevated lighting pieces—meditations of tech and craftsmanship—were designed to shine a light on the state of the vulnerable state of freshwater lakes around the world.

Elsewhere, iconic Italian design brand Gufram made its Design Miami/ debut with the launch of the Stress CACTUS ®, a new edition of its storied, Radical Design-esque by multi-hyphenated artist, entrepreneur, actor, and fashion icon ASAP Rocky and his design studio HOMMESSAGE.

Learn more about all the installations in this year's outstanding Curio program here.

Partner Collaborations

The fair also featured collaborations with some incredible partners, including DelcoGoGalleria, Fendi, Kohler, ARI, Bottega Veneta, Orient Express, Miami Design District, Aedi, UNM, Maison Perrier, Gaetano Pesce, Tom Sachs, The Savannah College of Art and Design, Panerai, Maestro Dobel Arpeborsch, and others.

Cross Seat/ chairs by Gaetano Pesce and Matthew Rucci for Bottega Veneta/ Photo by James Harris Photography

Cross Seat/ chairs by Gaetano Pesce and Matthew Rucci for Bottega Veneta/ Photo by James Harris Photography

Standouts include Cross Seat/, a collection of chairs designed by Australian fashion designer Matthew Rucci and Gaetano Pesce in collaboration with Bottega Veneta, designed as a celebration of originality; Germaine Bazzar Rock-I Roll for the Miami Design District, a strobe soda installation drawing on the vibrant visual language of Miami Curated to honor the BIPOC communities who have shaped the city's culture, and Kohler's Moment collection from the city's iconic foundations to today's progress, luminaire-inspired installation constructed from hand crafted ceramic tiles designed by Lebanese designers Nada Debs and the Kohler Wonel AB team; and DelcoGoGalleria Alta Gonzalezia, a presentation spotlighting truly incredible jewelry pieces, each one a unique and extraordinary work of art (though the fair goes on and on).

From top: Nada Debs x Kohler at Design Miami/ DelcoGoGalleria Alta Gonzalezia at Design Miami/ Photos by James Harris Photography

From top: Nada Debs x Kohler at Design Miami/ DelcoGoGalleria Alta Gonzalezia at Design Miami/ Photos by James Harris Photography

Talks Program

Last but not least, this year's extensive talks program featured conversations with a blockbuster array of world class, multidisciplinary talents—including Gaetano Pesce, Ryckie Banks, Rebecca Jones, Maria Cristina Orduña, Nadia Debs, ASAP Rocky, Daniel Arsham, Roberto Lugo, Tom Sachs, and Matthew Rucci. The current selection of those talks are available for online viewing here, starting today.

Roberto Lugo and Ryckie Banks in conversation at Design Miami/ 2022. Photo by World Red Eye

Roberto Lugo and Ryckie Banks in conversation at Design Miami/ 2022. Photo by World Red Eye

Don't miss grainlists goes out to all one amazing contributors and collaborators! And thanks to all those

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who visited live and online!

’Til next time.*

**Design Miami/ Basel will return to Basel, Switzerland for the 17th edition of the fair held June 13 - 18, 2023, with Preview Day on June 12, 2023. Dates for the 19th edition of Design Miami/ will be announced in early 2023.*

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