

ART



MATERIAL GAINS AT PAD

Once again, PAD London gives access to fresh and unusual art and design from the world's hottest creators and this year's theme, unexpected materials, promises a world of surprises

WORDS REYHAAN DAY



The world-renowned art and design fair, PAD London, returns to Berkeley Square this month, with 68 exhibitors from across the globe showcasing pieces spanning the fields of contemporary and modern design, ceramics and glass, tribal art and antiquities, jewellery and modern art.

The 13th edition of PAD London will see 57 returning exhibitors alongside 11 newcomers, bringing a rejuvenated roster of participants to Mayfair from across 14 countries. Cape Town's Southern Guild Gallery joins PAD London to showcase new works by ceramicist Andile Dyalvane, sculptures by Justine Mahoney and upholstered leather furniture by one of South Africa's most talked-about fashion designers, Rich Mnisi, among others; WA Design from Paris will bring elegant French and Japanese designs to the pavilion; Barcelona's Side Gallery will highlight Latin American furniture from Brazilian makers such as Joaquim Tenreiro; and Portuondo Paris will display a pair of brutalist brass lamps by Henri Fernandez and a 1980s cabinet by Piero Fornasetti.

New York's Todd Merrill Studio is creating an immersive space based around a collection of sycamore and acrylic console tables by British designer Marc Fish. "The craft of woodworking goes back to the dawn of man



and many of the techniques used today go back hundreds if not thousands of years," says Fish. "Laminating thin strips of timber dates back to the Egyptians; we have refined the technique into something that allows great forms and amazing possibilities."

The number of galleries representing jewellery designers has been bolstered with the addition of Taffin, New York, with its bold colours and unusual materials; Boghossian's precious gemstones from around the corner in Mayfair; and Hong Kong's Anna Hu, with her whimsical, sparkling creations; alongside vintage luxury watches from The Beautiful Watch and polished gold and titanium pieces by Fabio Salini, based in Rome and London.

Standing alongside PAD London's new participants are exhibitors that will be familiar to those who have visited the fair previously. Fair stalwart Carpenters Workshop Gallery will take a prominent space, with a Nacho Carbonell chandelier, a leaning bookshelf cast in brass by Milan-based architect and designer Vincenzo de Cotiis, and a bench by fashion star Rick Owens. "We have been exhibiting at PAD since the fair's inception and return year after year as it is a fantastic opportunity to connect with European collectors interested in the crossover of art and design," says co-founder Loic Le Gaillard on the gallery's longstanding participation.

Other names from Mayfair and St James's include Jermyn Street's Aktis Gallery



CLOCKWISE FROM MAIN: NACHO CARBONELL, *BIG ROUND CHANDELER*, 2018, COURTESY CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY; MARC FISH, *LETHAL DESK*, 2018, COURTESY TODD MERRILL; KJUNT 2, 2019, COURTESY OF KAREN SWAMI; ALICE CICOLINI, COURTESY OBJET D'EMOTION - VALÉRY DEMURE

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and Hill Street's Robin Katz Fine Art will showcase wares from the world of modern art; Blairman of Mount Street's furniture pieces will again be on display; and Oscar Graf will return, after moving into a premises on Mount Street. "PAD London has become an important and regular event for us. This year is a little special for us, because of the London gallery being so close and so new, so the combination of both will be interesting."

As with each edition of PAD London, there are a number of themes that present themselves through the diverse roster of exhibitors; and the 13th edition of the fair is no different, with galleries and makers looking to bring fresh ideas to the worlds of design and art. Notable this year are individuals who are crafting highly collectible, sculptural pieces using unexpected materials.

Roman designer Achille Salvagni will present a new Murano glass collection and a new version of his iconic *Spider* chandelier. "It will be the largest chandelier we have ever produced for a limited-edition run in a striking red lacquer bronze with hand-blown Murano glass elements. It will take centre-stage, elegantly stretching out over an inviting seating area," says Salvagni.

"Exhibiting at PAD London allows me to be at the heart of the market and to catch up with friends and clients – old and new – to develop existing relationships and explore what the market is doing."

Adrian Sassoon, based in Knightsbridge, will highlight cast metal works by Japanese-born Junko Mori; hand-carved porcelain vessels by Andrew Wicks; and glassblown pieces by Denmark's Tobias Møhl. "What I find exciting about craft and the pieces we're exhibiting is the innovation from brilliantly talented artists whose work is firmly rooted in knowledge of what has come before," says Sassoon. "To be a brilliant contemporary mind, awareness of the wonders of the past places them on a higher level."



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Andile Dyalvane, represented by Southern Guild, will present his clay-based works that reference his upbringing in South Africa and Xhosa culture; French ceramicist Karen Swami will showcase her works that employ the Japanese technique of kintsugi; and Sarah Myerscough Gallery-represented Eleanor Lakelin with her wood-turned vessels crafted as organic, decaying forms.

“I am interested in time,” says Lakelin, who is based in Deptford. “The layers built up and eroded away through growth and decay, and the way objects can talk to each other across centuries and across material.

“Having work at fairs like PAD means my work is seen by international collectors and clients, and is hopefully appreciated by anyone with an interest in sculptural form and wood as an artistic material.”

Collectible jewellery is another key facet



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of PAD London. Alongside new exhibitors are returning names including Paris's Walid Akkad, Karry Berreby and Lorenz Bäumer; Geneva-based Suzanne Syz; and London's Elisabetta Cipriani, who works with world-famous artists including Ai Weiwei to create unique jewellery pieces. “Artists bring to a jewel another work of art that can be worn and talked about,” says Cipriani.

“We truly focus on what we like,” says Glenn Spiro, who returns for another edition of the fair, showcasing his works using titanium. “We love to travel the world to find special gems, and then use various materials and methods of settings.

“What PAD has created and brought to Mayfair is first class,” says Spiro. “It adds to the important art week in London and, of course, brings great buyers to London. Hopefully they will find their way to us.”

At its heart, PAD London is about more than just commerce. For Adrian Sassoon, it is an opportunity to celebrate the highest level of ingenuity in design and craft: “PAD allows us to exhibit the work of outstanding artists to an audience highly tuned to find art; and participating annually allows us to demonstrate with pride that our artists are continuously coming up with new ideas, objects and creativity.”

PAD London runs from September 30 to October 6, Berkeley Square

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