

PAD London 2017 design prize winners announced



Rose Uniacke scooped Best Stand at this year's PAD London fair

By Bethan Ryder

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It's always interesting to see how exhibitors at PAD (pavilion of art and design) fair, which takes over London's Berkeley Square every autumn and is an international highlight for collectors, respond to the random tree trunks that are often in the midst of their stands. This year Galerie Gosserez dealt so elegantly with the issue, the boomerang-like form of German-designer Valentin Loellmann's "Copper" Corner Bench hugging the gnarly Plane tree so harmoniously they seemed destined for each other.



Valentin Loellmann's "Copper" Corner Bench on Galerie Gosserez

Rough bark beautifully juxtaposed with smooth charred oak, natural meets man-made organic shapes colliding - no wonder the Paris-based gallery scooped the Best Contemporary Design award for that very piece. It was a clever, beguiling display of Loellmann's dark sculptural furniture - ladders, mirrors and desks - which have a fairy tale feel, the glinting bronze elements highlighting the soft, hand-hewn aesthetic.



Valentin Loellmann's "Copper" Corner Bench on Galerie Gosserez CREDIT: FRANCIS AMIAND

The PAD fair awards are selected each year by a judging panel presided over by Jasper Conran, who's joined by the great and good of the art and design world. A group that this year includes Yana Peel, Deyan Sudjic and Tom Dixon among others, who gather on day one - the Collector's preview - to discuss the contenders for the aforementioned category, plus Best 20th Century Design and Best Stand.

The covetable Best Stand award went to Pimlico-based dealer and interior designer Rose Uniacke for the second time. She was last victorious at her PAD debut in 2015 and this year she seduced the judges with a stand lined in "butternut" velvet (she opened a fabric division as part of her showroom earlier this year) - a supremely uplifting shade that was the perfect backdrop for the white Mathieu Mategot chairs and the collection of Peter Collingwood "macrogauze" woven wall hangings on display. The late Collingwood was one of the first living British artists to be exhibited at the V&A in 1969, alongside Hans Coper, and yet his work doesn't quite yet match Coper's popularity or prices - his presence here suggests this is about to change.



Jose Zanine Caldas lounge chair exhibited by Galerie Le Beau

Although Galerie Jacques Lacoste exhibited an exquisite Jean Royère daybed, which came from Lima and belonged to a Peruvian client of the celebrated French designer, Madame Castoriano, it was actually Galerie Le Beau that won the Best 20th Century Design for the Jose Zanine Caldas lounge chair which the self-taught Brazilian designer created in 1949. Midcentury modern Brazilian design has been incredibly collectable for a while now, Bahia-born Caldas worked alongside the likes of Niemeyer and often worked in plywood, this piece is constructed from Cavunia plywood, rope and fabric.

Other notable highlights among the 68 galleries exhibiting include Sèvres, which showed pieces by London-based design duo Doshi Levien, including an incredible cabinet featuring their colourful signature iconography that was snapped up on the opening night for over £50k euros.



Dimore Gallery's stand at PAD CREDIT: FRANCIS AMIAND

Milan-based Britt Moran and Emiliano Salci - aka Dimore Gallery - debuted this year too (there were 12 newcomers in total, most in the area of 20th-century collectables) their stand furnished with a set of Carlo Mollino's Lutriario armchairs, reupholstered in Dimore fashion in a distinctive blue silk, likewise a pair of Prefacto Monsieur and Madame Armchairs reborn in grey and pink velvet. By contrast, the nearby Carpenters Workshop Gallery exhibited rigorous dark modernist-inspired tables by Wonmin Park, a departure from his pastel Haze collection. And that's the beauty of PAD, as Patrick Perrin says, it's a "cabinet of curiosities" with always something to tempt most collectors of 20th-century and contemporary design.

PAD London in Berkeley Square, W1 is on until 8th October; pad-fairs.com