

# BLOUINARTINFO

## Preview: 10 Stunning Sculptural Designs at Design Miami/ Basel 2015

JANA PERKOVIC | JUNE 03, 2015



**Cecile Bendixen: Draped Nimbostratus (An Open Window Unit) (Maria Wettergren Gallery)**

Young Danish architect Cecile Bendixen's Draped Nimbostratus (An Open Window Unit) is a monumental textile installation. The shape and pattern of the folds of this cloud-like hanging is a result of Bendixen's research into the interaction between sound and textile, the movement of sound waves through space, and the its imagined ability to give shape to textile.

Courtesy of Marria Wettergren Gallery



**Byung Hoon Choi's Basalt Benches (Friedman Benda)**

New York-based gallery Friedman Benda is making its debut at Design Miami/ Basel by bringing to Europe the Korean designer and master craftsman, Byung Hoon Choi. Choi's career has centred around modernizing Korean design traditions, researching the relationship between functional objects and art, and experimenting with form, texture, and material. His work, sober and rigorous, in natural materials, has promoted an artistic approach to design, separating it from industrial manufacture of goods. His work thrives on tension, balance, humor, and a paradoxical sense of wholeness. Choi's exhibits at Basel are a set of monumental benches, sculpted from single pieces of basalt, at once raw and refined.

Courtesy of Friedman Benda



**Tora Urup: Glass Bowls (Marria Wettergren Gallery)**

Tora Urup is a Danish designer specialising in glass and ceramics whose work comprises industrial production, small series, and unique pieces. Urup's unique pieces are highly unconventional, confusing glass works. The pieces exhibited in Basel by Maria Wettergren Gallery are a result of Urup's ten year experimentation with intervening into various fields of perception within a series of circular glass bowls. The combination of selected colors in layers of glass, interplaying with each other, with varying thickness of clear glass, enables different spatial perceptions to be experienced. A single glass bowl is experienced as a stack, as nested bowls levitating inside one another, or as a-dimensional, strange objects.

Courtesy of Maria Wettergren Gallery



**Studio Job: Train Crash Table (Carpenters Workshop Gallery)** (not pictured)

Dutch-Belgian Studio Job was founded by soulmates and Eindhoven graduates Job Smeets and Nynke Tynagel in 2000. Working with Carpenters Workshop Gallery, they have create a famous series of monumental works that interpret world famous buildings in disaster film settings. These are maximalist works, full of humour, even whimsical if it were not for the rigourous execution of their pieces: Burj Khalifa attacked by King Kong, Big Ben incinerated on both ends like an apple core, a flaccid Eiffel Tower bending into itself. For Design Miami/ Basel, they are presenting a new work in this series, titled "Train Crash Table."

Courtesy of Carpenters Workshop Gallery



**Eske Rex: Divided Self (Maria Wettergren Gallery)**

Danish designer Eske Rex's "Divided Self" is a series of enigmatic portraits: split oval wooden shapes resembling stylized human heads. Pulled together by embedded magnets, the halves are nonetheless kept apart by a string that keeps them attached to opposite surfaces. For Rex, these objects reflect the sense of being divided or fragmented, pulled apart by opposing forces and only momentarily achieving a sense of being whole and undivided. The tension in the work — always threatening to exert just that tiny bit of extra pull and sever the bond completely — illustrates the fragile nature of life, and delicate position of the spirit that animates our body.

Courtesy of Maria Wettergren Gallery



**Nacho Carbonell's Cocoon works (Carpenters Workshop Gallery)**

Spanish designer Nacho Carbonell's style is defined by organic forms, and rough and colorful finishing textures, placing his works somewhere between primitivist sculpture and paleo design. For Design Miami/Basel, Carbonell will present a new piece in his Cocoon series, a fantastic series of everyday objects with cocoons helpfully grafted on — for contemplation and introverted repose, or, increasingly, for bringing people together. Carbonell's furniture is recognizably public — benches, chairs — but with a room of one's own there, offering a constant opportunity for escape from the public gaze.

Courtesy of Carpenters Workshop Gallery



**Rasmus Fenhann: Geometric Furniture (Maria Wettergren Gallery)**

Copenhagen-based Rasmus Fenhann has been inspired by Japanese techniques of woodworking and origami for his new collection of furniture and lighting created especially for the Maria Wettergren Gallery, exhibited under the title "Japanometry." Fenhann's small tables and fixtures, masterfully carved from fine woods, explore the intricacies of the geometric universe. A synthesis between the Japanese wabi-sabi and mathematical beauty, informed by Fenhann's two important study trips to Japan, these pieces demonstrate a clean and pared down beauty with a great spiritual dimension. Furniture to use? The jury is still out on that.

Courtesy of Maria Wettergren Gallery



**Ditte Hammerstroems' Sculptural Upholstery (Marria Wettergren Gallery)**

Ditte Hammerstroems' designs are always poking at the relationship between the furniture and the people who use it, with the emphasis on the irrational and emotional qualities of the objects we surround ourselves with. Hammerstroems' benches are results of experimentation with radical forms of upholstery. The padding and upholstery of her benches intervenes and mixes with the very core and integral structure of the furniture. The fabric on the furniture becomes an expressive, unruly element, taking over and subverting the controlled structure of the frame.

Courtesy of Maria Wettergren Gallery





**Denis Milovanov: Deux Panneaux (Armel Soyer)**

Russian artist Denis Milovanov's pieces are abstract, brutal, totemic, and inspired by the culture of North Russia. Milovanov sculpts found timber — these two benches were sculpted from uprooted oaks found lying around in the aftermath of storms.

*Courtesy of Armel Soyer*



**Mathias Kiss: Mercure mirror (Armel Soyer)**

You should not even attempt to see your reflection in Paris-based Hungarian artist Mathias Kiss' Mercure mirror: use it, instead, to reflect on our codes of living and habitation. An intricate assemblage of creases and folds, the mirror infinitely multiplies the image, reflecting it between the many mirrored surfaces it contains. Mercure was created for the exhibition Air Museum at Palaise des Beaux Arts, in collaboration with the French band Air.

Courtesy of Armel Soyer