



MOST GRACEFUL //
CONTRAST 3

VICTOR HUNT, BRUSSELS

Composed of six discrete lighting installations, Julien Carretero's Contrast series makes creative use of industrial pipes that have been split and opened up either by laser or computer numeric control (CNC) millwork. Arguably the most elegant of the series is Contrast 3. Made of carbon steel and aluminum, the piece rises vertically from its base, but then suddenly tilts to the right, revealing an orange glow through a soft V-shaped slit that appears to take its cue from organic forms. With regard to the entire Contrast series, Carretero points out the palpable tension that exists between the raw material and the finished "surface treatments ranging...from lacquering, anodizing, polishing and brushing to crafted patinas and natural oxidations." victor-hunt.com

BEST OF
DESIGN
MIAMI

**IN HOMAGE TO THIS INDISPENSIBLE ANNUAL EXHIBITION—
THE STAPLE OF ART BASEL MIAMI CELEBRATED ITS 10TH
ANNIVERSARY THIS PAST DECEMBER—INTERIORS BESTOWS
SOME INVENTIVE HONORIFICS TO THE MOST SUPERLATIVE
PIECES FROM THE FAIR.**

By Drew Limsky & Charles Desselle



MOST PLAYFUL //
B-BALL SHELF
GALLERY DIET, MIAMI

B-Ball shelf was made by sculptor, designer and furniture-maker Emmett Moore—a Miami native who has exhibited extensively in the city. The name of the piece originates from the heavyweight rubber basketball upon which B-Ball's powder-coated steel frame is asymmetrically placed. As a result, B-Ball rests completely off-kilter—as though it were set to tip over or roll away at any moment. However striking, this crafty trompe l'oeil is just an effect. B-Ball dares its audience to discover that the basketball can't move and that its shelf supports are staggered to compensate for the lopsided placement of the frame. The thick glass shelving rests perfectly level. Clients can purchase the B-Ball shelf as shown or opt for coffee table, dining table or larger shelf configurations. "Emmet has been doing a lot of site-specific commissions," Gallery Diet's director and founder, Nina Johnson-Milewski, says. "We wanted to give clients the opportunity for a more intimate dialogue with the designer." gallerydiet.com

MOST UNDULATING //
WAVE CABINET
CRISTINA GRAJALES
GALLERY,
NEW YORK

At first glance, this piece by Chilean-born Sebastian Errazuriz seems a lot like furniture found at many showrooms specializing in contemporary design. It's a tastefully proportioned birch box supported by steel legs typical of minimalist cabinetry. However, the absence of visible drawers forces one to interrogate the object further. That's the point at which the Wave cabinet makes its stunning departure from the mundane—the point at which Errazuriz focuses most of his work. "I'm not particularly obsessed with cabinetmaking," explains the New York-based artist and designer, "but it offers the chance to create connection through something the audience thinks it already knows." The wave cabinet is vertically oriented, meaning it opens by pulling up on any of the many slats that compose the top panel. All the slats are connected like the sticks of a folding fan, so pulling one slat moves the adjacent slats. "When you touch it," Errazuriz says, "everything starts to flow." cristinagrajalesinc.com





BEST POP //
VAROOM TABLE
PRIVEEKOLLEKTIE
CONTEMPORARY,
HEUSDEN,
NETHERLANDS

“Varoom is energy in an object!” exclaims Reinier Bosch, the young Amsterdam-based artist and designer whose work is strongly influenced by Roy Lichtenstein.

Indeed, Bosch’s Varoom takes its cues from Lichtenstein’s 1963 painting of the same name. The perfectly smooth stainless steel-lined characters each light up in a sexy primal red, so conversations around this table will never be boring. Through

Bosch’s alchemy, the onomatopoeic exclamation from Lichtenstein’s painting is resurrected. With the Varoom table, Bosch has intimately woven his work into the history of pop art. priveekollektie.com



BEST TECHNOLOGY //
GROWTH TABLE

GALERIE MARIA WETTERGREN, PARIS

Mathias Bengtsson, an artist and self-made scientist, collaborated with Denmark’s finest carpenter to produce the solid walnut Growth table. From his Stockholm studio Bengtsson designed and produced this sculptural yet functional piece, which is as thought-provoking as it is visually striking. “We used sunlight, rain and wind to create Growth table,” explains the Danish-born furniture designer. In fact, Bengtsson invented an innovative computer-aided design (CAD) technique that literally grows furniture. Growth table started as a digital seed programmed with DNA that included instruction on the height at which the seed should grow a flat surface. During the seed’s maturation, meteorological conditions were randomly applied, thereby according the table its distinctive biological look. “Mathias gives birth to new forms that have never been seen before,” says Maria Wettergren of Galerie Maria Wettergren. “Grounded in the traditions of handmade furniture, he creates a pure beauty that is at once authentic and nearly classical.” mariawettergren.com

BEST HOMAGE //
WORK BY
FRENCH MASTERS
GALERIE
DOWNTOWN,
PARIS

This tribute installation features midcentury furnishings by Jean Prouvé, Charlotte Perriand, Serge Mouille and Jean Royère. Prouvé’s Trapèze table is a favorite of François Laffanour, director of Galerie Downtown. As Laffanour explains, “The table is simple but has the look of something timeless and very elegant.” Also noteworthy: the opulently covered Ours Polaire armchair by Royère. This iconic chair is highly sought after on the world auction market—a sienna-colored version recently sold at Phillips for well over six figures. Laffanour exhibited two matching eggplant-colored versions in Work by French Masters. galeriedowntown.com



MOST MONUMENTAL //
CCTV WARDROBE
GALLERY ALL, LOS ANGELES

Constructed of sumptuous Brazilian rosewood, the arresting CCTV wardrobe—a miniature of the OMA-designed China Central Television headquarters in Beijing—took nearly three years for Chinese-born artist Naihan Li to complete. “It’s complicated: the angles, the calculation of the wood panels, the compartments,” explains Xiao Lu, director of Gallery All. “Naihan also tries to present the original grooves that are in the OMA building.” The ultraorganized wardrobe is fashioned so that its owner moves around it, dressing—and later, undressing—in deliberate stages. gallery-all.com



MOST POSTMODERN //
BIG BEN (AFTERMATH 2009-2014)
CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY, LONDON

Big Ben (Aftermath 2009-2014) from Studio Job was part of an exhibition meant to turn architecture on its head—sometimes quite literally. The piece, of course, refers to the iconic clock tower of Westminster Palace. Cast entirely in patinated bronze and standing more than 8 feet tall, it has one function: the quotidian task of timekeeping. Studio Job crowns the cheeky replica with a double-decker bus spouting flames from its exhaust as it rides on an amorphous cloud-like object. The most enigmatic feature: An irregular column crafted to look like charred or decaying material. Regarding this element, Job Smeets, a founder of Studio Job, concedes, “It is unclear whether this represents the symbolic building blocks from which everything arises or whether the sculpture has been eaten away by the travails of time.”

carpentersworkshopgallery.com

MOST MESMERIZING //
PHENOMENA
GALLERY SEOMI, LOS ANGELES

The Phenomena series was created by the Korean furniture designer Kim Sang Hoon, whose work is often inspired by architectural methods. Linus Adolfsen, managing director of Gallery Seomi, chose Phenomena for exhibition at Design Miami/ because of its lines and craftsmanship, which reflect the best of Korean functional art. Pieces in the Phenomena series are crafted with layer upon layer of premium steel-faced wood arcs that create an ever shifting shape as one moves—even minutely—around it. The chair’s leather-appointed seating obliges one to settle in and stay a while.

galleryseomi.com

