

FIRST
EDITION

BEIRUT DESIGN FAIR

-
BIEL, HALL3

-
20/24
SEPTEMBER
2017

Founding Partner


Creditbank S.A.L.

PRESS RELEASE

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ANNOUNCEMENT – TALENT, OBJECT, INITIATIVE AWARDS

A jury consisting of Aline Asmar d'Amman, Marc Baroud, Marianne Brabant, India Mahdavi, and Mathias Ohrel - united on the occasion of the Beirut Design Fair - has announced its unanimous decision on three distinct prizes for this first edition of the fair, a symbol of the effervescent energy of Beirut and the international reach of Lebanese creativity.

Prizes were awarded for the following categories: ***The Talent Award***, for the designer with the most remarkable artistic journey; ***The Object Award***, which rewards the most unique and innovative creation, and ***The Initiative Award***, which seeks to honor an entrepreneurial approach representative of the creative spirit of Beirut and the surrounding region.



THE TALENT AWARD: ANASTASIA NYSTEN

Born in Canada to a Lebanese mother and a Finnish father, Anastasia Nysten grew up between Finland, France and Lebanon. She studied under Karen Chekerdjian in Beirut and Michael Anastassiades in London and received her degree from ALBA (the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts). Having returned to Lebanon two years ago, Anastasia is representative of a new and cosmopolitan generation of Lebanese designers without borders, one which is contributing to the creative effervescence of Lebanon and symbolizes a young generation rising around the world.

Anastasia Nysten's armchair *Troll*, presented for the first time at Beirut Design Fair, is highly representative of her work and quickly attracted the

attention of the jury. In its generosity, its comfort and its formal touch at once chaotic and structured, *Troll* incarnates an oriental approach far from orientalist archetypes. Ottoman, seat, armchair, *Troll* recalls traditional yet contemporary uses and scenarios and reinvents the spirit of the oriental seat in its sensual aesthetic, tamed by the singularity of its lines and its masterful mix of materials.

www.anastasianysten.com



THE OBJECT AWARD: STOUFF

Stouff particularly attracted the attention of the jury in its contemporary interpretation of the Lebanese stove – the centerpiece of the Lebanese household and warm and welcoming symbol of a convivial *art de vivre*. In *Stouff*, MAD Achitecture&Design offers a new interpretation of a traditional object and optimizes its use of energy. The intelligence of the work's tight and aggressive form prevents danger and regenerates the spirit of a formerly obsolete object, reinvigorating its sense of companionable sharing at the heart of the home.

For Anthony Daher and Marie-Lyne Samaha-Daher, *Stouff* is an object which carries the weight of cultural heritage, a symbol of a singular *art de vivre* which, through innovation and optimization of its design, is bound to transcend boundaries.

https://www.facebook.com/search/str/stouff+design/keywords_search



THE INITIATIVE AWARD: RENDER DESIGN RESIDENCY

The committee wished to honor this project, which unites art and design and is the result of the collaboration of two women united in creative and entrepreneurial spirit. Joy Mardini, creator of *Joy Mardini Design Gallery*, and Amar A. Zahr, founder of *Beirut Art Residency*, together launched a design residency program. Each year, two international designers are invited to work in Lebanon with the goal of creating a work inspired by Lebanese artisanship. This year, participants Francesco Pace and Anne-Claire Hostequin created exceptional works inspired by Lebanese culture and *savoir-faire*. Beyond its relevance, *Render Design Residency* is the story of a meeting between art and design, one which validates artisanal *savoir-faire* and pushes its community toward innovation.

<http://www.beirutartresidency.com/>

<http://jmdesigngallery.com/>

THE JURY

For its first edition, Beirut Design Fair assembled exceptional personalities attached to Beirut and Lebanon by either origin or affinity:

Aline Asmar d'Amman: architect, interior designer, artistic director

Marc Baroud: designer, director of the design department at the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts

Marianne Brabant: from the Modern and Contemporary Department of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs de Paris

India Mahdavi: architect, interior designer, designer

Mathias Ohrel: founder of m-0 conseil, a recruitment agency for all companies with strong creative content

<https://www.beirut-design-fair.com/en/>

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