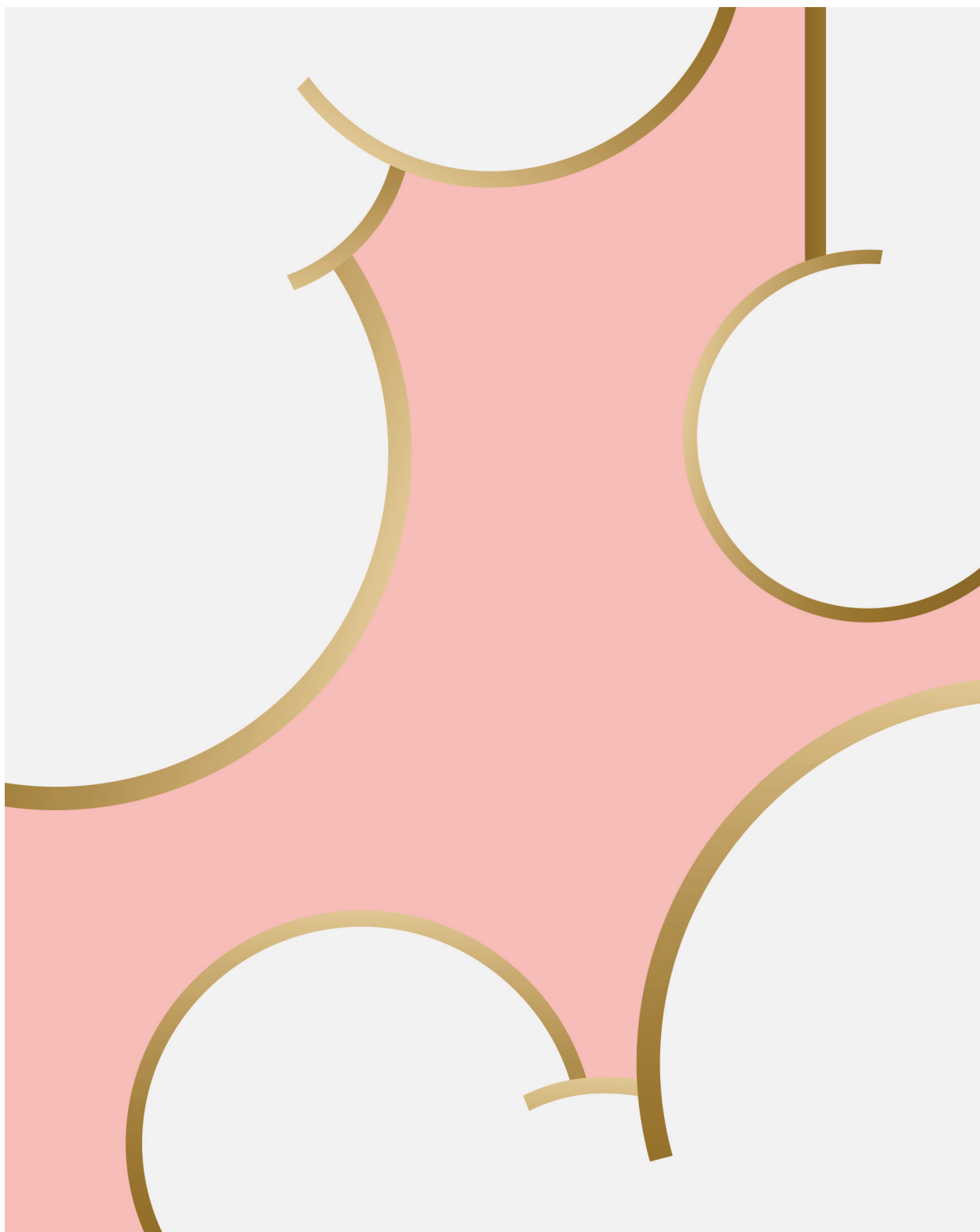


CLOSING PRESS RELEASE

THIRD EDITION



**BEIRUT DESIGN FAIR**

19/22 SEPTEMBER 2019

# BEIRUT DESIGN FAIR 2019

## **Lebanon, a stronghold of Design in the Middle East**

In accordance with the forecasts expressed in 2017 at the launch of the Beirut Design Fair (BDF) initiative, the city of Beirut has become **the bastion of Middle Eastern Design**. This is proven by the third edition of the event, which ended on the 22nd September at the Seaside Arena, having totaled nearly **36,000 entries**.

The combination of the Beirut Design Fair with the Beirut Art Fair (which celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year ) was unanimously appreciated by the exhibitors, as well as being enthusiastically welcomed by the visitors.

The layout of BDF, designed by the young architect Rawad Rizk, presented two moving and monumental spaces, which served as showcases for the design creations the spaces themselves housed, alongside inviting visitors to question the **architectural chaos of Beirut**.

The level at the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of BDF has risen significantly, in accordance with the objectives of the organizers and the Selection Committee, which the visitors did not fail to notice.

This meeting brought together **46 exhibitors** from the region (Lebanon, Iran, United Arab Emirates ...), the Ivory Coast and Europe (Belgium, France ...), who presented the creations of more than 100 designers. **Design jewelry** made a notable entry into the fair, which hosted major Lebanese artists, including Nada Le Cavalier, Randa Tabbah, Nada G and Marie Munier. A high number of contemporary and **emerging Lebanese designers** were represented (35 exhibitors), as well as a prominence of **Belgian design** (5 exhibitors) and finally the biggest regional galleries specialized in the **Modern Design** (vintage).

Beirut Design Fair demonstrates the legitimacy and growth of Lebanon's creativity in the international design scene, as well as the appetite of the local market for quality furniture and objects presented with it. **More than 80% of the exhibitors sold** (and for some of them, 100% of their exhibits!) During BDF and most of them expressed their intention to participate again in 2020.

The awards presented this every year have particularly highlighted emerging talent, innovation and ambition. The jury, made up of members of the Beirut Design Fair Selection Committee 2019 (**Nadia Jabri, Rebecca Anne Proctor, and François Leblanc Di Cicilia**), unanimously awarded the three prizes of this edition on Thursday 19th September. The awards symbolized the effervescence of Beirut and its international reputation:

The **Object Award**, which honors a singular and innovative creation, was awarded to the Ivorian designer Jean Servais Somian - presented by Galerie Véronique Rieffel - for his «Wooden Coconut Mobile Bar». With a strong personality, his designs are produced in a very small series; however, even with the differing limits his sculpture, the product does not compromise on functionality.

The **Talent Award**, which distinguishes a designer with a remarkable emerging career, was awarded to the Lebanese Samer Bou Rjeily, for his furniture collection «Versus». The collection explores the relationship between the surfaces created by nature and those created by man; time oxidizes things and gives objects a new skin.

The **Initiative Award**, which aims to recognize an entrepreneurial approach representative of the creative spirit of the Middle East, has been awarded to the Iranian gallery Neshiman. Its founder, Mohammad Hossein Ghaderi, has been working for more than 10 years on original designs and cooperates with the best designers, architects and Iranian artists.

Finally, exceptionally, the Jury awarded a **Special Mention** to the Galerie XX<sup>ème</sup> Siècle, founded by Souheil and Hala Hanna, who distinguished themselves by the incomparable quality of their lamps put together for BDF following the theme «1960', a Design Odyssey,» along with their staging efforts.

BAF and BDF, in partnership with **Kaaysá Art Residency in Brazil** and with the support of the Arab Brazilian Chamber of Commerce, has announced an **open call** to award 4 selected artists and designers from the MENA a 4-week-long residency at Kaaysa Art Residency in Brazil in 2020. (Application deadline: 31 October // Application form in [www.kaaysa.com](http://www.kaaysa.com) / For more information please contact [info@kaaysa.com.br](mailto:info@kaaysa.com.br)).

During the fair, the founder of Kaaysa Art Residency, Lourdina Jean Rabieh, along with Beirut Art Fair's founder Laure d'Hauteville, and Beirut Design Fair's founder Guillaume Taslé d'Héliand have already awarded two distinguished talents a 4-week stay at Kaaysa Art Residency in Brazil: **Lebanese designer George Mohasseb** (exhibited by Espace Jacques Ouais) and Iraqi painter Serwan Baran.

Beirut Design Fair would like to thank its exhibitors, the Selection Committee and the fair's partners and visitors for their trust and for the light they brought to Beirut Design Fair during these 5 days.

The next edition of Beirut Design Fair will be held from **17 to 20 September 2020**, in parallel with Beirut Art Fair.

# 2019 EXHIBITORS

## **BDF Third Edition**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of BDF has almost fifty exhibitors, mostly Lebanese or from the region. This year, it is worth noting the arrival in the event of Jewelry Design and, in contemporary design, a new and significant presence of Belgium!

### **BOOTH**

BOKJA / Lebanon  
CHRYSTYNA SALAM / Lebanon  
DESIGN KULTUR X JIGSAW / Lebanon  
ECUSSON / Lebanon  
EMMANUEL JONCKERS / Belgium  
ESPACE JACQUES OUAISS / Lebanon  
GALERIE PIERRE GHATTAS / Lebanon  
GALERIE XX<sup>e</sup> SIÈCLE / Lebanon  
GEORGE GEARA / Lebanon  
LA GALERIE NATIONALE / UAE  
MAD BRUSSELS + ATELIER JESPER / Belgium  
MARIE MUNIER / Lebanon  
STUDIO NADA DEBS / Lebanon  
NADA G FINE JEWELRY / Lebanon  
NADA LE CAVELIER / Lebanon  
NATHALIE GHARBI LUXURY DESIGN / Lebanon  
NESHIMAN / Iran  
OPUS MAGNUM GALLERY / Lebanon  
RANDA TABBAH / Lebanon  
THE ART DESIGN LAB / France

### **SPOTON**

ALEF STUDIO / Lebanon  
ANDREA NASSAR / Lebanon  
ANTOINE ASMAR / France & Lebanon  
BITS TO ATOMS / Lebanon  
BRAM KERKHOFS / Belgium  
CHRISTIAN ZAHR STUDIO / Lebanon  
DAMJ DESIGN + CRAFT / Lebanon

D. M. FEGHALY + M.HATOUM / Lebanon  
FADI SARIEDDINE / UAE  
FARAH DESIGN / Lebanon  
FLUKKA / Lebanon  
GALERIE VERONIQUE RIEFFEL / France & Ivory Coast  
HAG DESIGN / Lebanon  
JEAN-MARC GEAGEA / Lebanon  
KRJST STUDIO / Belgium  
LAU / Lebanon  
MAWSAM DESIGN / Lebanon  
MAYA SAFI STUDIO / Lebanon  
NADA LE CAVELIER / Lebanon  
NAJWA NAHAS / Lebanon  
NEVINE BOUEZ / Lebanon  
NOUR ALI / Lebanon  
OFFGRID / Lebanon  
ROULA SALAMOUN / Lebanon  
SAMER BOU RJEILY / Lebanon  
SOURAYA CERAMICS / Lebanon

### **INSTALLATIONS**

RAIDY 3D PRINTING / Lebanon  
UNILUX / Lebanon - Italy

# THE TEAM

**Let's get in touch !**

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