

DESIGN & DECORATING

FRESH PICKS

Fair Plays

A sneak preview of standout attractions at Design Miami—the annual international fair of contemporary creativity, and sister show to Art Basel—which unfolds Dec. 4-8

▼ THE TABLE

Hella Jongerius's Gemstone

Future owners of this little table might be forgiven for trying to dig right into its colorful, petit-four-like layers with a fork after too many cocktails. Who could blame them? Ms. Jongerius has never been afraid to make work that is frankly delectable, though there's always a strong concept behind it. With Gemstone, the Dutch designer stacks plywood and candy-colored resin layers into a tantalizingly irregular form. "Hella introduces imperfections and individuality, as well as memory and craftsmanship, in all her pieces," said Johanna Frydman of Galerie Kreo in Paris, which represents Ms. Jongerius and is showing the piece in Miami. Gemstone table, edition of 20, price on request, galeriekreo.fr



▼ THE CERAMICS

Magdalene Odundo's Coil-Built Pots

Whiz-bang effects and conceptual theory are often dominant trends at the fair, now in its ninth year. So what is Magdalene Odundo, an artist who works in the old-fashioned way, doing there? The Kenya-born, Britain-based ceramist coils ropes of clay into caressable forms that read as remarkably human. You can't quite name all the influences pulsing beneath their burnished surfaces, which is perhaps what makes them compelling. (The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the British Museum clearly find them so—both own work by Ms. Odundo.) Averaging 22 inches tall, the pieces the Pierre Marie Giraud gallery will show in Miami are on a new, larger scale for the artist. "But there still is the sense of fragility and vulnerability," Ms. Odundo said. "They still contain the essence of being human." Vessels, \$50,000-\$70,000 each, pierremariegiraud.com



◀ THE STORAGE SOLUTION

Charlotte Perriand's Bookcase

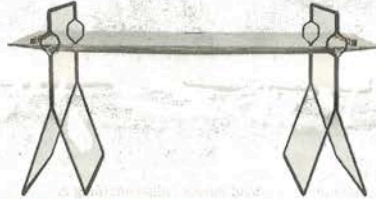
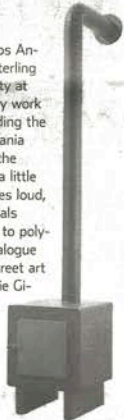
French architect Charlotte Perriand (1903-1999) will be the belle of the Miami ball. Work by the pioneering modernist, marginalized during her lifetime, will take a star turn in Miami Beach, where Louis Vuitton is building a never-realized house she designed in 1934, and in the Design District, where Cassina is displaying its Perriand furniture reproductions alongside a show of her photos. Inside the Design Miami tent, Galerie Downtown will present vintage Perriand pieces, including a 1966 wood bookcase with sliding cane doors (left)—reflecting her relationship with Japanese aesthetics and her insistence on being of her time. "This was '60s style, because of the white paint," said Downtown's François Laffanour. "It was an expression of a feeling that she needed to make something very pure." Bookcase (1966), price on request, galeriedowntown.com



▶ THE THROWBACK

Sterling Ruby's Stoves

With his functional wood stoves, Los Angeles-based painter and sculptor Sterling Ruby revels in the utilitarian—a rarity at this design fair, where contemporary work is the focus. Mr. Ruby grew up feeding the stove at his parents' rural Pennsylvania home, and has admitted he found the responsibility both fascinating and a little scary. Mr. Ruby more typically makes loud, emotionally charged work in materials ranging from bronze to spray paint to polyester fiberfill. "There is always a dialogue between art with a capital A and street art in Sterling's work," says Pierre Marie Giraud, the Brussels dealer who represents the Stoves series. Collectors may see these inky and inscrutable stoves (Stove 2, right) as a bold new direction. Stoves 1-4 (2013), editions of 6, \$40,000 each, pierremariegiraud.com



▲ THE WILD-CARD COLLECTION

Marc Dibeh and Marc Baroud's Wires Series

"Wires tells the story of a line," said Marc Dibeh, a first-timer to Design Miami, of the furniture and lighting series he's created with fellow Lebanese designer Marc Baroud for Beirut's ArtFactum Gallery. If the pieces remind you of "Harold and the Purple Crayon," that's understandable: They all began in two dimensions. "We designed different shapes and forms on paper, then played with the line," Mr. Dibeh said. "Each product is a different application of the line's mistreatment." What's clear from the nine works on show from this ongoing series (Desk, above; Floor Lamp, top right) is how technically challenging simplicity can be. Geekier collectors will enjoy examining every masterfully resolved edge and joint. Wires Series (2012-2013), editions of 10, from \$3,000 each, artfactumgallery.com —Sarah Medford

