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ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST THE MOST BEAUTIFUL HOMES IN THE WORLD

AD EXCLUSIVE

Gauri & Shab Rukh Khan **OPEN THEIR HOME FOR AD**

**15 RISING
CONTEMPORARY
ARTISTS**
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DESIGN

FOR A CHANGE

AD profiles international designers who have mastered the art of turning banal materials and fragments into fine examples of craftsmanship

WRITER SAMIR WADEKAR

STUDIO FORMAFANTASMA

PRODUCT DESIGNERS

www.formafantasma.com

The volcanic eruption—normally known for its destructive nature—served as the inspiration for design duo Andrea Trimarchi and Simone Farresin of Studio Formafantasma. In collaboration with London's Gallery Libby Sellers, they presented the De Natura Fossilium collection. After the 2013 eruption of Mount Etna, Sicily, elements from the surrounding area were sampled, melted, blown, woven, cast, and milled, creating a collection that highlights the landscape and this force of nature. From the use of basalt to their experiments with lava in the production of glass, the duo's exploration and resulting creations realize the full potential of lava as a material for design. Geometric objects carved from basalt and combined with structural brass elements have produced an almost linear or even brutalist body of work.



(Clockwise from this picture)

BILLOWS AND BOULDERS

Mount Etna, on the island of Sicily. The 'Monti Silvestri' clock is made of basalt, brass and lava sand. The 'Lipari' bowl is made of occhio di pernice basalt, lava rock, brass and textile. The 'Iddu' mirror is created from obsidian, lava rock and brass. The 'Small Pillar' table comprises basalt, occhio di pernice basalt, brass and textile. The '1614' stool is made using basalt, textile and brass.



PHOTOS: LUISA ZANZANI



(Left to right)

ANIMAL FARM

The *Elephant*, *Rico* and *Blue Eyebrow* sculptural masks by Marc Sparfel have been cleverly handcrafted using discarded furniture and spare pieces of wood.

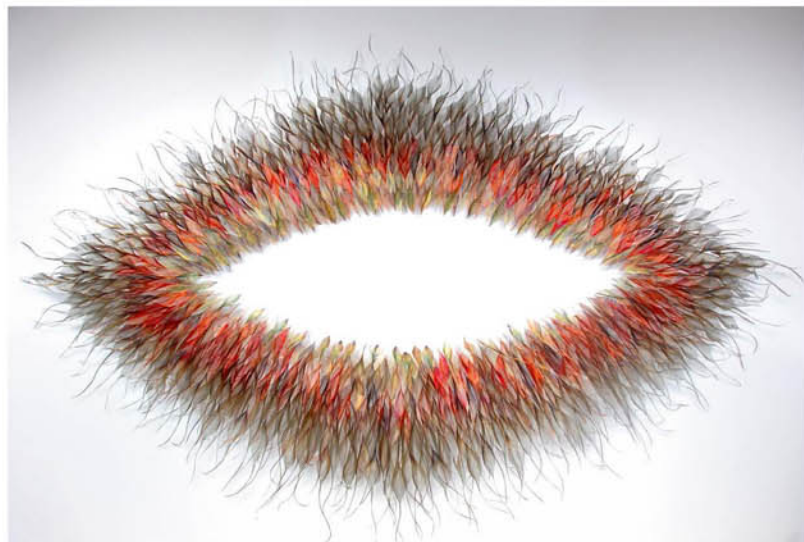


MARC SPARFEL

SCULPTOR

www.marcsparfel.com

Intrigued by chairs, wardrobes and hat stands abandoned in the streets of Barcelona, Marc Sparfel used this urban forest of furniture to create an ingenious series of masks. His childhood fascination with animals is reflected in his reinvention of discarded pieces. The conceptualization and construction of each piece begins in his workshop. He selects the best pieces to create quirky, one-of-a-kind sculptures. The time spent on each piece depends on the degree of technical difficulty and size of the sculpture. "I am a bit of a perfectionist and naturally work in a slow and meticulous way; and I like to respect this character trait in my workshop!" confesses Sparfel. He is represented by the Vail International Gallery in Colorado and Galerie Friedmann-Hahn in Berlin.



MICHELLE MCKINNEY

ARTIST

www.michellemckinney.co.uk

(Clockwise from left)

METALLIC ART

Michelle McKinney in her studio, creating a template for a commission. *Seed 1* and *Seed 2* are sculptures made using woven brass, copper, and entomology pins on boards that are enclosed in Perspex box frames.



The dichotomy between subject matter and material is an important motif in Michelle McKinney's work. She creates contrasts between strength and fragility, using strips of metal, leading to structural depth and an unusually organic appearance. Each piece is inspired by the forms and rhythms of nature and a desire to capture its beauty and hold it in time. The innovative application and subtlety of the metal used perfectly complement the fragile and ephemeral subject matter. When the layers of leaf-like pieces are assembled and hung, they take on lives of their own, creating shadows and highlights, continuing an intentional sense of movement within her work. She is represented by the Northcote Gallery in London.



RAN HWANG

ARTIST

www.ranbwang.com

Korea-born, US-based artist Ran Hwang has an incredible ability to transform mundane materials such as buttons, pins, beads and thread into alluring pieces of sculptural art. *Sweet In Yean*, created in 2010, and *First Wind*, created in 2013, are two examples of her penchant for producing larger-than-life wall installations. She created the distinct patterns using pins to hold buttons that are movable—indicating the human tendency to be irresolute. “I choose buttons, which are as common and ordinary as human beings,” she says. Hwang will have a solo exhibition at the Hermès gallery in Singapore in November. She is represented by the Leila Heller Gallery in New York, and Asian Art Works in Beijing and Busan.



(From this picture)

PINS AND NEEDLES

Sweet In Yean draws inspiration from bright-red plum blossoms, and consists of buttons, beads and pins on six wooden panels, measuring more than 23 feet in total. Over 35 feet long, *First Wind* draws inspiration from traditional eastern architecture and consists of buttons, beads and pins on nine wooden panels.

