

STYLE WITHOUT BORDERS

SMO BEIRUT

SMO Beirut showcases a mix of work, from contemporary Lebanese designers to rare design icons from the late 20th century. Their focus on original, limited edition pieces seeks to contest the barriers between the three disciplines that inform modern design; contemporary art, design and architecture. So expect to find a diverse and dynamic collection of everything from furniture to fixtures, all curated by the gallery's founder Gregory Gatserelia. An an art and design specialist, he advises clients all over the world. And it was after one client too many had passed up the opportunity of a lifetime that Gatserelia started to buy the pieces himself. "The idea of showing my collection one day grew in my mind and I reached a point where I was mentally ready," he says. "I felt comfortable selecting my pieces; they have a great pedigree among cult pieces." smogallery.com



NAKKASH GALLERY

Nakkash is a familar name to design aficionados of Dubai. A much loved, and well established bastion of stylish living since 1983, it was founded by the noted interior architect, Wajih Nakkash. From African ethnic to original pieces from Vito Selma, their featured Philipino designer, they present beautiful collectibles from around the globe, bringing their talents for combining contemporary and classic to homes across the emirates. Aya Nakkash, tells us why it was important for them to be a part of the first Design Days Dubai. "It is a new platform for design in the Middle East, which is an opportunity to show our products to a broader audience. More importantly, Design Days Dubai, being dedicated solely to unique design, is unlike any fair in the region." nakkashgallery.com

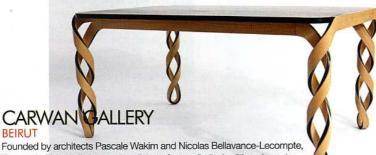
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From emerging talent to rare classics, experienced curators of fine design present a diverse collection of desirable pieces to dress your home

MARIAM AL NASSAR GALLERY

KUWAIT AND UNITED KINGDOM

Distinct from many of her peers at Design Days Dubai, renowned independent furniture dealer and consultant Mariam Al Nassar, specializes in bringing the highest quality 20th century furniture and lighting to clients in her home country, Kuwait. With three exhibitions under her belt, and qualifications from the Courtauld Institute of Art and Sotheby's, she possesses a rare perspective on integrating the finest contemporary pieces into the modern Middle Eastern home. mariamalnassar.com



Founded by architects Pascale Wakim and Nicolas Bellavance-Lecompte, Carwan is Beirut's first pop-up gallery to feature limited edition pieces by contemporary designers. They promote creative potential among local and international communities, patronising dying crafts and highlighting the importance of cultural exchange. In their exhibition Design and New Perspectives in Middle Eastern Crafts, they have commissioned eight designers including Khalid Shafar (UAE) and Karen Chekerdjian (Lebanon),to create pieces which demonstrate a unique take on Middle Eastern craft. "Carwan's main objective," Nicolas tells us, "Is to grow within in the Middle East. We are looking for cultural partnerships and collaborations in the region, as we believe design is a new matter here and we would be proud to cooperate in its development and promotion." Look out for Carwan popping up in Milan, Beirut and and Istanbul this year. carwangallery.com

Drawing from one of the richest design periods, the 20th century, this prestigious gallery is bringing its expertise from France to Dubai for the first time. And not just for Design Days Dubai. Their upcoming gallery at Al Serkal in Dubai means that we should be able to access some of the extraordinary pieces that continue to be curated by the gallery. Specialised in what they term 'Original Art', the gallery has over twenty years experience in gathering the most prolific pieces, those that have gained classic cult status through their form and inherent usability - making their portfolio one of the most coveted by collectors around the world. galerie-nationale.com