

CARWAN GALLERY

Carwan Gallery, in occasion of NOMAD Venice 2019, presented a solo exhibition of the Lebanese artist Georges Mohasseb.

"Future Memories" is an ode to brutalist architecture, decorative functionality, and imagined memories. It's a city created at the intersection between the imagination of Antonio Sant'Elia, the Italian Futurist architect from the turn of the century and the visionary world of Italo Calvino's "Invisible Cities".

"I wanted to create a collection that reflected the imagined futures of the 1960s and 70s, when industrial cities became a symbol of a new age," explains Mohasseb. "It's a world that comes alive with sheer excitement for modern architecture and technology, and this excitement inspired the creation of 'Future Memories.'"

The 8 pieces in the collection, consisting of 6 side tables, a banquette and a console table, are each named after a city visited by Marco Polo, the hero of Calvino's "Invisible Cities." They are a reflection of the fantastic accounts that lived in the imagination of brutalists and futurists.

The pieces are composed of oxidized concrete, a concoction created by Mohasseb, producing rust, a symbol of the passing of time. With each day, the rust evolves to continue telling a story, all the while reminding us of days past.

"As an architect by training, I wanted the pieces to be functional all the while being timeless," explains Mohasseb. "As such, I imagined them to be living pieces that fit in perfectly in our collective imagined futures. They continue to change, as do we, as do cities. These pieces of furniture become sculptures."

Bringing in a further element of collision between the past and the future, each item is created using an ancient molding technique, one in which the lines created through the 3D printing of the mold are accentuated and integrated within the design.

