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Inspiring Objects Abound at The Salon Art + Design Fair 2017

NOVEMBER 9, 2017 6:36 PM
by AHNNA LEE



Najla El Zein, *Distortion Bench 6*, 2017
Photo: Damien Arlettaz / Courtesy of Friedman Benda and Najla El Zein

Through their sheer magnetism, there are particular objects that will motivate your curiosity, at times in surprising ways. This weekend, The Salon Art + Design fair presents a wide variety of potentially piquant design in New York. Its display of furniture, decorative arts, and fine art ranges from historical works by distinguished artists to innovative pieces that employ unexpected materials and techniques from newer artists. Jill Boker, executive director of the Salon, notes that the fair “affords visitors the chance to consider such a mix of paradigms. We’re encouraging people to look at a range of art and objects, almost from a tabula rasa.”



Pia Maria Raeder, *Wall Mirror: Sea Anemones 10*, 2017
Photo: Courtesy of Galerie BSL

A gathering of 56 galleries can create an uncertain sea of objects, but rest assured, a few newcomers have brought must-see items: Béatrice Saint-Laurent of Paris’s Galerie BSL, at the Salon for the first time, will be featuring a particularly noteworthy piece, *Sea Anemone 10*, by the gallery’s newest designer, Pia Maria Raeder. It’s an ensemble of brass-finished wall mirrors made of 27,000 beech rods shaped by hand into sculptural forms simulating waves—awe-inspiring craftsmanship at its best.

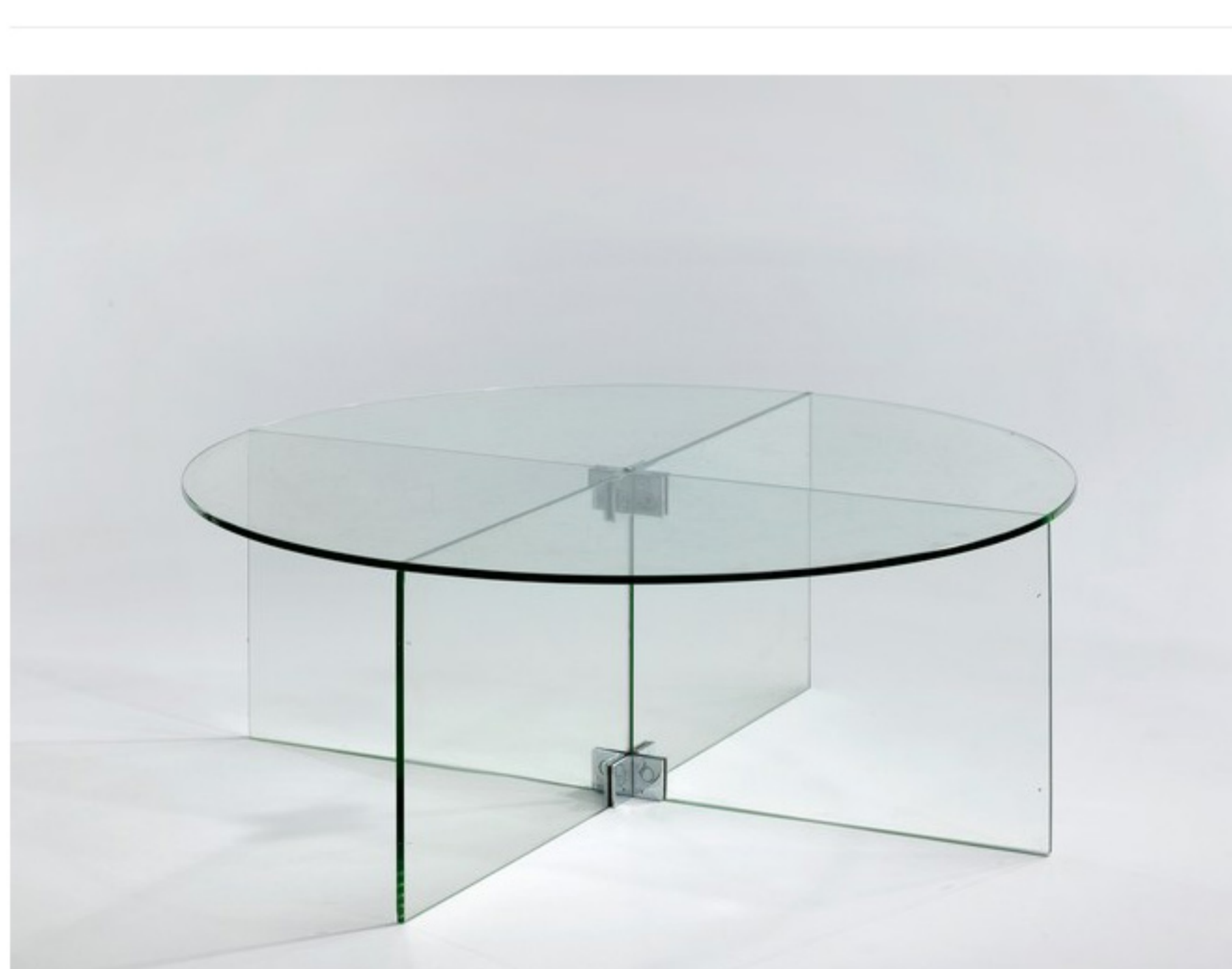


Soft Baroque, Wall Mounted Light Vase: *BN&FS*
Photo: Courtesy of Etage Projects

Another new exhibitor, Etage Projects from Denmark, features clever pieces from Soft Baroque design duo Saša Štucin and Nicholas Gardner: Black nickel-finished exhaust pipes are warped into wall lamps and table vases meant to hold flowers—the clashing nature makes it all the more interesting. Saša adds that they are “playing with ideas about stereotypes in gender aesthetics, material expectations, and shifting values.”

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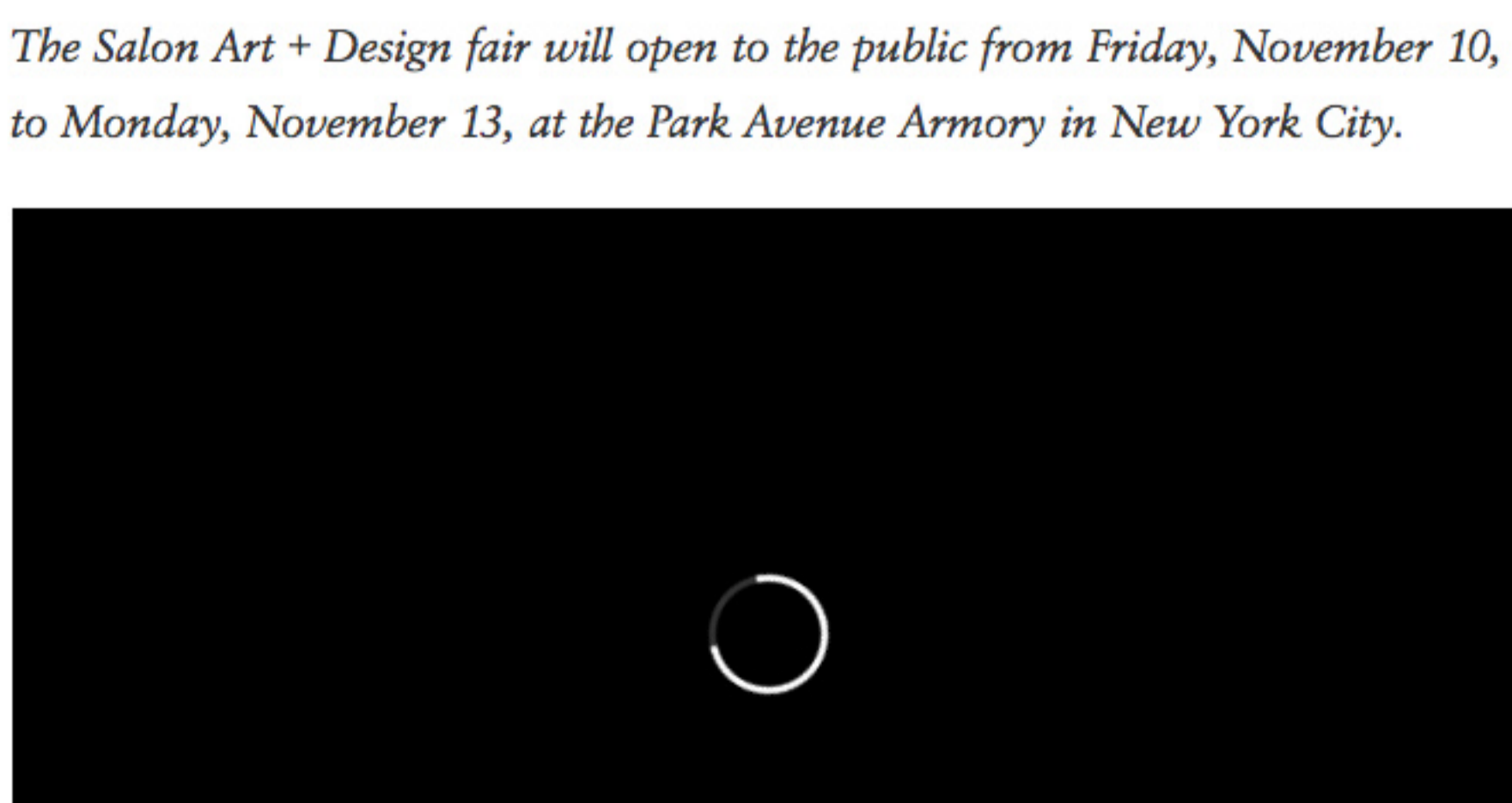
Jacques Dumond, *Low Table*, 1960
Photo: Thierry Depaigne / Courtesy of Demisch Danant

From New York, Demisch Danant will present glass masterpieces from Jacques Dumond, a premier designer of the French modernist movement, and furniture from Philippon & Lecoq, influenced by Dumond, that champions the best of minimalism. Finally, look out for Najla El Zein, a young Lebanese designer whose work is exhibited by major galleries like Carpenters Workshop Gallery and Friedman Benda. At the Salon, she will show pieces from her *Distortion* bench series that, she says, “treats the theme of distortion within a physical context but also a spatial and emotional one.” There is a juxtaposition between the cold, white concrete bench and the soft, round part of the distortion that Zein intends. It’s inspiring, and as you make your way through the Salon, you’ll notice that this kind of thoughtful, eye-catching design is all around.



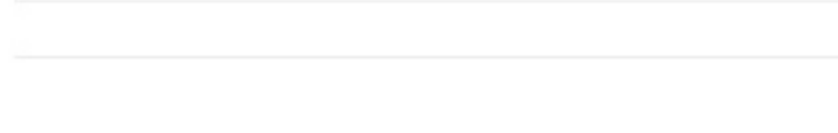
Antoine Philippon and Jacqueline Lecoq, *Desk*, 1963
Photo: Thierry Depaigne / Courtesy of Demisch Danant

The Salon Art + Design fair will open to the public from Friday, November 10, to Monday, November 13, at the Park Avenue Armory in New York City.



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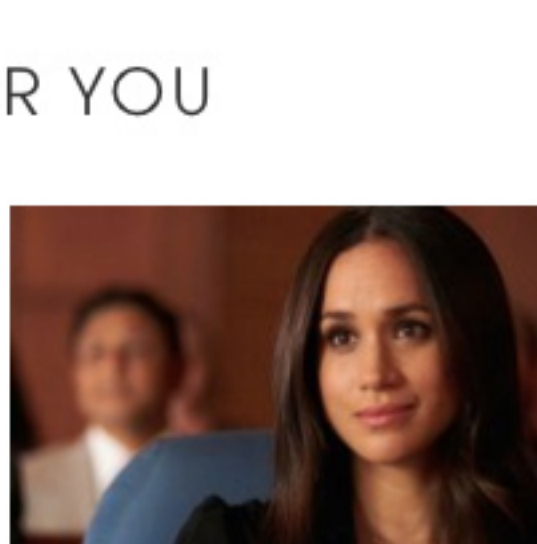


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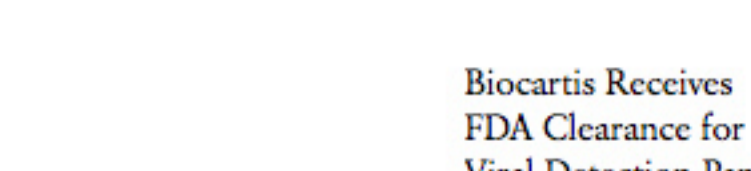
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