

Posted December 21, 2017

TEXT BY CARLY OLSON

The gallery looks back at Salvagni's prolific 5-year career in furniture design, and ahead to many more to come

Maison Gerard Celebrates Achille Salvagni!

THE REPORT



"There's a real magic of Achille," says Benoist F. Drut one morning at Maison Gerard gallery in New York City. We've just finished walking through dozens of luxurious, earthen pieces, from bronze-topped cabinets to glowing onyx slabs as sconces, and Drut's face is lit up with excitement. This is high praise from the revered dealer, who's one of New York most noted gallerists specializing in Art Deco and contemporary design. Drut staged this show to celebrate architect and designer Achille Salvagni, the Rome-based maestro who Drut took on as a nascent furniture designer a mere five years ago. In that half-decade, Salvagni has created over 140 pieces of furniture and tabletop while still continuing his work in decorating.

Achille Salvagni: Five Years of Creation—open at Maison Gerard through January 31—highlights several new works that have never been shown before as well as a wide variety of pieces that he has created in the past five years. Salvagni's style is recognizable through the materials he uses—bronze, onyx, and exotic marble, mostly—though he adds new pieces to the collection in a few installments each year. Drut notes that Salvagni's affinity for fine materials sets his pieces apart from the pack. "He really has a predilection for onyx," Drut explains, "and I remember when we first started working together, I asked, 'Why aren't you using alabaster instead?'" Salvagni's answer came quickly: "Why use an average material when you can use a better one?" Now that's something worth celebrating.

Read on to see some of Salvagni's most eye-grabbing lots at Maison Gerard, and learn the story behind each.

This Japanese silk lampshade was stitched by an 88-year-old artisan, who Salvagni uses for all of his shade work. It takes her 20 full days to stitch each point on a shade, and the result is ravishing.

Lancea Table Lamp (2017)





Arian Camilleri

Papillia Contemporary Side Chairs (2017)

A bulbous, cushy seat is lightened up with spindly bronze legs, each adorned with a tiny foot.



Mini Vittoria Shearling, Contemporary Chair (2016)

Salvagni created a mini version of his popular Vittoria seat after clients requested it. Dressed in a luxurious shearling, I can't help but plop down into this seat upon first sight. As expected, it's like a warm, polar bear hug — if polar bears were friendly.



Lanterns for ALDUS (2013)

Salvagni's take on a hurricane lamp is surprisingly practical—candles rest on gilt-bronze platforms with long, feathered handles. With an easy lift, the candles can be extracted spill (and burn) free. And for literature buffs, each lantern is inscribed with an excerpt of the book *Hypnerotomachia* in Latin.



Arian Camilleri

Palatino, Contemporary Two-Door Cabinet (2016)

Clad in parchment, topped with cast bronze, and finished with lapis lazuli details, this cabinet is Salvagni at his finest. And the lapis lazuli pieces are magnetic, so owners can swap them out with whatever stone tickles their fancy — perfect for the designer in all of us.



Arian Camilleri

Silk Gold, Cabinet (2015)

Salvagni is known for his expertise in cabinet-making, and it's clear why. Captivating from all angles, this whimsical piece has is gilded to perfection and features a handle inlaid with onyx, because why not?



Arian Camilleri

Saturn, Contemporary Concave Sconce (2013)

A fan-favorite, Salvagni's saturn sconces are illuminated by onyx spheres within their patinated bronze rings. As Drut says with a laugh, "The more expensive, the richer, the better."

