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BY THEIR VERY NATURE, superyachts are unique. Most are custom built, created to the exact — and exacting — specifications of their owners-to-be. As such, every piece of furniture, every fitting and every objet d'art scattered from galley to guest cabin is bespoke.

So, while there are yachts out there on the water owned by art aficionados — something the unrivalled collection aboard HELIOS can attest to — it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that every superyacht is a piece of art.

It's an opinion Achille Salvagni, the passionate Italian designer, likely wouldn't challenge you on. His modern, almost otherworldly aesthetic has afforded Salvagni unwavering critical claim across the worlds of art and architecture for almost two decades. His name itself has become synonymous with good taste and refined living. And he has been decking out superyachts for over a decade.

This year alone, Salvagni's 164-foot Aurora, built by innovative Italian shipyard Rossinavi, won the attention of the superyachting community. With limed sycamore walls and gunmetal bronze accents, it's a masterpiece in boating design — and the creation process was anchored by Salvagni's love of, and deference to art.

The fittings and design inside are all strikingly beautiful. Two ugly stainless-steel beams in the master cabin were tough on the eyes, but structurally integral. But Salvagni found beauty in the problem, cladding the beams and pipes in white leather and transforming them into 'wings'.

It's a design mentality seen from bow to stern throughout Aurora. Bronze inlay and lacquered fibreglass were introduced to keep the interior sleek, and even the most



THE 164-FOOT AURORA,
ANCHORED IN SALVAGNI'S LOVE
OF ART, IS A MASTERPIECE IN
BOATING DESIGN

mundane fittings were treated like art. A table lamp evokes the softness of a natural growing branch, light fittings are cast as bronze sea urchins dotted across the ceilings and staircases are coated in sophisticated nickel and silver.

Even the owner's existing art was taken on board, both literally and figuratively, by Salvagni. The designer created a foyer at the end of a hallway to showcase the piece the owner was most proud of.

So, if you're looking to deck your nautical halls out with the best works around, why not cruise down to Salvagni's long-awaited debut at the Pavilion of Art and Design in London this October, where he will be presenting a carefully-curated booth?

After participating in PAD Genève's inaugural edition in February of this year and, consequently, becoming the subject of a major survey exhibition at Maison Gérard, Salvagni's PAD London booth will be an homage to daring 20th-century French artist Marie-Laure de Noailles' signature eclectic style.

The scene for this exhibition will be set against a muted palette of natural earth tones and textures reminiscent of the African Sahara — the backdrop to an inspiring combination of design and modern art, punctuated by tribal artefacts. The booth is set to show Salvagni's own iconic furniture and lighting design pieces, hand-selected to complement a superyacht's challenging interior.

Included in this presentation will be a new edition of the designer's acclaimed 2013 Spider Chandelier, this time rendered in a striking Blue de Savoie, and his Santiago sofa, upholstered in a hand-woven Toyine Sellers fabric.

Also on show will be a pair of Gae chairs, with their characteristically oversized and hand-engraved bronze feet. Fibula, an eye-catching coffee table that exemplifies Salvagni's original inimitable approach to design, and his unique mastery of noble materials, will also be on display.

Or, for something a little more exclusive, head down to check out Maasai, a new modular shelving system designed especially for the fair, and inspired by the weapons of Maasai warriors.

Whichever of Salvagni's striking pieces catch your eye, there's plenty here to turn your yacht into the most voguish vessel on the water. Or, if you've not got the millions you need to set sail just yet, the booth will at least spark your imagination, and inspire you to start an art collection that will, one day, stuff your superyacht to the gunnels. ●

Achille Salvagni will be showing a selection of his pieces at PAD London, from October 1st in Berkeley Square.





Top:
Ares, 2017; *Emerald*,
2013; *Pinnocchio*, 2014

Middle:
Cosmedin Bronze,
2016; *Spider Blue*, 2018

Bottom:
Gae, 2017; *Lucy Sahara*
Noir Marble, 2013



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