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The Salon Art + Design Preview Attracts High-End Collectors, Benefits Dia



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Arts

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Gallery: The Salon Art + Design 2018

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The Salon Art + Design held its opening preview on Thursday at the Park Avenue Armory. Hosted by Nathalie and Laura de Gunzburg to benefit the Dia Art Foundation, the preview attracted designers, collectors and art and design world influencers hoping to find the best of 20th and 21st Century design.

"Dia is an unusual institution," said Dia Art Foundation Director Jessica Morgan. "We have a very strong aesthetic. We have eleven sites; some of them are installations devoted to land art, in the American West. We generally use industrial buildings which have been beautifully converted into art spaces. Another characteristic is natural light: The spaces that are open have a simplicity to them."

"Design is at the heart of our ethos; even though we're not necessarily showing design objects, there is a sensibility that's a perfect fit for people who are thinking about their aesthetic surrounding and their environment," Morgan continued. "There is an awareness that the space that they're in is quintessentially Dia quality. This fair is truly outstanding in terms of its quality. There is a lot of work from the period that we concentrate on, the '60's and '70's. A lot of younger, contemporary designers here have been influenced by that period."

Lalique's booth, with walls covered in white roses from top to bottom, greeted visitors as they arrived, the intoxicating scent motivating one to linger in front of the brand's mirrors and crystal birds. Designers, including Alex Papachristidis, David Netto, Daniel Romualdez, Richard Mishaan and David Kleinberg had more pressing business, and were thrilled to get an early start - no time, even, for a glass of Ruinart champagne.

"I love this fair," said Liz O'Brien, who exhibited at The Salon Art + Design last year. "I love the quality of the dealers and the mix of work on display. There are exciting contemporary things, and really high-end 20th Century design."

O'Brien was showing a William J. Quigley pivoting coffee table commissioned by Samuel Marks from around 1940. Made of wood, the bottom part of the table is shaped like a propeller, and the top is circular glass.

Across the aisle from O'Brien, Maison Gerard was showing an exciting mix of mid-century furniture with contemporary pieces.

"This is the one show where you can highlight contemporary and late 20th Century design, which is a specialty of the gallery," said Public Relations Director Stacy McLaughlin. "We work with a lot of contemporary artists from all over the world, and we get to exhibit their work with mid-century furniture. We have a Ruhlmann sofa and a settee mixed with a contemporary table by Stacklab, an artist out of Canada."

Always the perfect hostess, Dia Art Foundation Chairman of the Board Nathalie de Gunzburg greeted collectors and design fans alike, including Carol Mack, Beth Rudin DeWoody, Linda Fargo, Cyril Karaoglan, and Lizzie Tisch, while stopping to have a chat in French with Aline Chastel, of Paris' Galerie Chastel Marechal, who has been exhibiting at the fair since its inception.

"At the beginning I participated in the fair to see my most important clients in New York," said Chastel. "Each year it's been a big success. This year I'm showing Art Deco pieces by Eugene Prince from the 1930's. They have been in the same family, in the same collection, since the 1930's. We have all the documents to prove the provenance. This is their first time on the market."

The Salon Art + Design will be on view through November 12th.