

THE REPORT

Expo Chicago Highlights Crème de la Crème Design
Dealers

Cutting-edge contemporary design and examples from decades ago share the spotlight

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An Oscar Niemeyer bench on display at Expo Chicago.

Photo: Joe Kramm, courtesy of R & Company

Aside from *Expo Chicago's* brilliant lineup of powerhouse art dealers such as Gagosian touting Richard Avedon, Sterling Ruby and Andy Warhol, there's a considerable crop of tip-top design dealers participating in the fair (staged September 13 to 17 at the Navy Pier). "From the outset, we wanted to make certain that we incorporated design into our core programming and into the overall mix of international art dealers participating in Expo," says Tony Karman, fair director. The sixth edition boasts 135 galleries representing 25 countries and 58 cities. Here's what not to miss.

First stop is the Tribeca-based R & Company, featuring a distinctive 1978 Oscar Niemeyer lacquered bentwood red cane bench, which the renowned architect created to mark his 100th birthday. "Less than a dozen are available," says Zesty Myers, who co-heads the gallery. Another showstopper is a new Wendell Castle carpet from the Woven Forms series. "What makes the carpet so distinctive is that while rare Orientals and carpets from India are routinely comprised of but 15 colors, Wendell's is made up of more than 100 colors," adds Meyers of the carpet, which was first shown in a palazzo during the Venice Biennale.



Atelier Van Lieshout's table, shown by Carpenters Workshop Gallery.

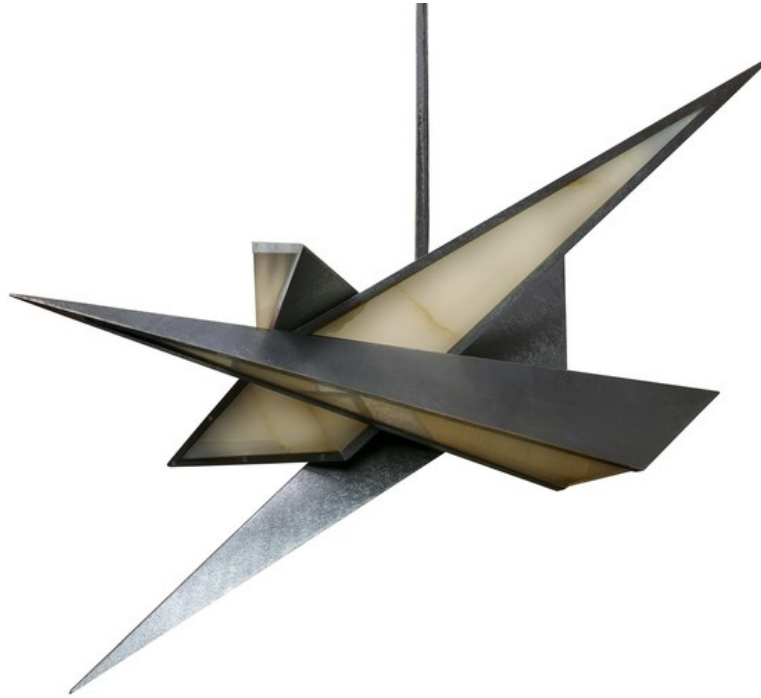
Carpenters Workshop Gallery, with premises on Fifth Avenue as well as in Paris and London, is touting the inimitable Atelier Van Lieshout, whose designs have been spotlighted at the Centre Pompidou and MoMA. What makes Van Lieshout so compelling? “Joep merges art, architecture, and design into a single example,” says gallery cofounder Loïc le Gaillard. Waldo Fernandez, Tommy Clement, Pierre Yovanovitch, and others regularly pluck up the Dutch designer’s work.



The Stadera desk by Franco Albini.

Photo: Courtesy of Casati Gallery

Meanwhile, the Windy City's own Casati Gallery will be showcasing Franco Albini's 1958 Stadera desk in walnut and steel with hard-edge geometric lines. The *pièce de résistance* on the stand is a 2004 Renzo Piano drawing of his sun-filled, expansive Chicago Art Institute wing.



Achille Salvagni's Elena chandelier.

Photo: Paolo Petrignani, courtesy of Maison Gerard

Right nearby, the Greenwich Village Maison Gerard will display Achille Salvagni's Elena chandelier in cast and burnished bronze with hand-carved onyx. With Tom Ford, Mayor Bloomberg and Paul Simon are just a few who favor the Italian architect's work. Also on view, Michael Coffey's Titan cabinet is a stunning sculptural statement carved from solid four-inch mahogany and weighing 900 pounds while close to nine feet in height.

"In partnering with leading design galleries each year, we're continuing to play a significant role in highlighting the nexus between contemporary art and design for our collectors, curators, and patrons," says Karman.