

DESIGN MIAMI BASEL 2022 LAFFANOUR GALERIE DOWNTOWN

“The Golden Age” Modernist poetry with ISAMU NOGUCHI CHARLOTTE PERRIAND and JEAN PROUVÉ

Preview on Monday, June 13th, 2022
From June 14th to June 19th, 2022
Booth n° G05

Laffanour Galerie Downtown participates in the 16th edition of Design Miami Basel 2022, under the theme of “The Golden Age”, and is showcasing a forest of “Akari” lighting fixtures by the American-Japanese artist Isamu Noguchi (1904-1988). Accompanied by iconic pieces of furniture by designers Charlotte Perriand and Jean Prouvé, the Downtown Gallery reveals a poetic and minimalist scenography.

The ovoid-shaped lampshades made of rice paper float above a black “Formes libres” table from 1958, installed alongside Charlotte Perriand’s famous “Nuage” bookcase and furniture by Jean Prouvé. Constantly involved in the scenography of his stands during fairs, François Laffanour created a delicate case preciously preserving the most beautiful pieces of his speciality.



The Isamu Noguchi suspensions presented at Miami Design Basel 2022 are originals from the Steph Simon gallery, which introduced Isamu Noguchi to France and Europe in the mid-1950s. Indeed, since 2007, François Laffanour has been working on the Steph Simon gallery’s archives to authenticate and research modern French design collection pieces.

“Nuage” bookcase,
Ca. 1961

Varnished mahogany shelves, black lacquered bent steel sheet
supports
H. 28,3 x W. 142.1 x D. 13.1 in.

Provenance: Special commission for Mauritania, 1961



Isamu Noguchi
Suspensions 'Akari'
ca. 1960-65

Lampshades covered with paper made from the pulp of the
Mino (mulberry) tree, ideogram Red sun and moon
Published by Ozeki Company, Gifu (Japan)

ISAMU NOGUCHI (1904-1988)

Born in Los Angeles in 1904 to an American mother and a Japanese father, Isamu Noguchi lived in Japan until the age of thirteen, when he moved to Indiana, USA. In 1926, the young Noguchi discovered the enigmatic sculptures of Constantin Brancusi in New York, which inspired him deeply for the next part of his career. A few years later, another trip to Japan, this time to the town of Gifu, opened his eyes to the town's specialty, the manufacturing of lanterns and umbrellas from mulberry bark paper and bamboo. Noguchi then designed his own lamps using traditional Gifu construction methods. The result is the "Akari" suspension lamps, with their modern and enchanting design, which have now become emblematic pieces of post-war design.

Jean Prouvé (1901-1984)
"Direction" armchair,
Ca. 1950



Black lacquered bent steel structure with four legs, seat and backrest re-upholstered with green leatherette, two wooden armrests

H. 30.9 x W. 25 x D. 20.4 in.

JEAN PROUVÉ (1901-1984)

Jean Prouvé, an emblematic figure of the modernist adventure in the 20th century, was an architect, engineer, builder and designer, finding his inspiration in metal, and in particular in pressed, folded, ribbed and welded sheet steel.

He started out as an ironworker, but soon turned to architectural construction after discovering welding and stainless steel.

Jean Prouvé (1901-1984)
Tripod stool,
Ca. 1953



Aluminium seat resting on four black tubular legs, wooden endings
H. 17 x W. 17,5x D. 16.1 in.



He then worked with the avant-garde in the field of design and architecture and participated with personalities such as Robert Mallet-Stevens, Le Corbusier, René Herbst and Charlotte Perriand in the audacious adventure of the Union des Artistes Modernes, which was determined to dust off the Decorative Arts. Jean Prouvé's main idea is the constructive principle, which means that "there is no difference between building a house and building a piece of furniture".



Jose Zanine Caldas (1919-2001)
Bench,
Ca. 1970

Wood (pequi vinagreiro)
H. 30.3 x L. 82.6 x D. 29.1 in.

ZANINE CALDAS (1919-2001)

1919: Birth of José Zanina Caldas in Belmonte, south of Bahia, Brazil.

1939: Opening of an architectural model workshop in Rio de Janeiro where Lucio Costa & Oscar Niemeyer come to work.

1948: Creation of a modern furniture factory: "Movéis Artísticos Z", Sao Paulo, Brazil.



Jose Zanine Caldas (1919-2001)
Armchair,
Ca. 1970

Wood (pequi vinagreiro)
H. 30.3 x L. 82.6 x D. 29.1 in.



ABOUT GALERIE DOWNTOWN

Since its opening in the early 1980s, the Downtown Gallery, created by François Laffanour, has explored, shown and rehabilitated a little-known field of 20th century architectural furniture.

These designers - mostly architects - from Europe and the United States, who, in the aftermath of the Second World War, brought a different conception to the art of furnishing, dictated by a need for freedom and efficiency, in the service of a new art of living in an era of technological and scientific development.

The Downtown Gallery owns and works, among other things, from the archives of the Steph Simon Gallery which, from 1956 to 1974, represented and published the furniture of Charlotte Perriand, Jean Prouvé, Serge Mouille, Georges Jouve and Isamu Noguchi. Since 2004, the Downtown Gallery has had exclusive rights to Ron Arad's furniture in France.