

Galerie

LiveArtfully

**Inside the
Homes of Major
Collectors from
Venice to
Napa Valley**

**In the Studio
with Nick Cave**

**Pool House
Perfection:
How to Make
a Splash**

The CREATIVE MINDS Issue

**Discover the 22 Innovative Talents Blazing
New Trails in Art, Design, and More**

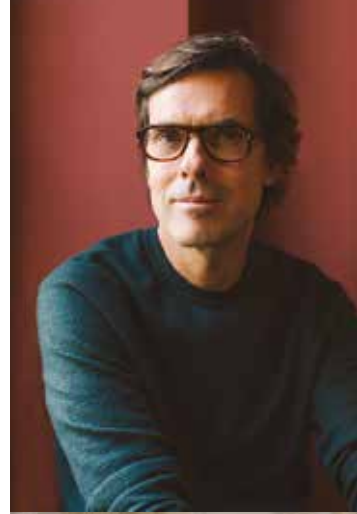
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Creative Spots

This group of innovative talents is blazing new trails with an extraordinary mix of vision, experimentation, and craftsmanship. From a diverse range of fields, including art, architecture, fashion, jewelry, and cuisine, these audacious forces define what it means to break new ground. With a daring sense of imagination and unwavering determination, they create ambitious projects that redefine the art of what is possible.

By Galerie Editors





Creative Minds Spotlight



KHALED EL MAYS

"I am pushing for design powered by the human hand in a world that is getting more virtual by the second," says Khaled El Mays, founder of Atelier Khaled El Mays, a furniture, interiors, and graphics studio based in Beirut. "I'm looking for a way for them to coexist and interact." After earning an MFA in digital art at Pratt Institute in New York, El Mays returned to Lebanon and turned his attention to soulful furniture design that places craftsmanship at the forefront. Working closely with artisans in eastern Lebanon and Mexico City, he uses natural materials to create textural pieces, which will be shown next with Nilufar during Salone del Mobile in June. "The whole design exercise is about finding that balance between traditional craft and innovation," he says. "It is a subtle process."

BREAKOUT WORK: The Fishawy valet, which was originally created for the 2016 House of Today Design Biennale. Technically meticulous, the piece is a contemporary twist on a historical object with El Mays's signature exaggerated proportions and bold curves. "It was a turning point for me in how I want to define myself as a designer and the ideas I want to convey."

CREATIVE POSSIBILITIES: "I love that initial moment when I have a thought that looks like it will lead somewhere exciting, even though I know from experience that most of these ideas will morph into something totally different." *nilufar.com* —LUCY REES



Khaled El Mays. LEFT: An exhibition of his furniture at Nilufar during Milan's Salone del Mobile in 2021.



Dancing Vases by Lebanon ceramists Mary-Lynn Massoud and Rasha Nawam. RIGHT: Cherine Magrabi Tayeb.

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KHALED EL MAYS



CHERINE MAGRABI TAYEB

Through her nonprofit organization, House of Today, Cherine Magrabi Tayeb has been a champion of the design community in Lebanon for the past ten years. "When I first moved to Beirut, I realized that creativity was thriving, yet Lebanese designers lacked the support of an ecosystem to grow," she explains. She saw an opportunity to present their crafts on a global stage, developing House of Today as an incubator that not only gives talents a wider platform but also awards scholarships to young creatives. Additionally, the organization pairs rising stars with established designers for mentorships, presents their work at fairs such as Design Miami/ and Edit Napoli, supports an artist-in-residence program with Anderson Ranch, and oversees a design biennale. Constantly on the hunt for new makers, such as recent discoveries Khaled El Mays (a fellow Creative Mind), Stéphanie Moussallem, and Karen Chekerdjian, the House of Today team creates "a fresh repertoire of designers in Lebanon, while solidifying the foundations for the industry to thrive."

TIME OF NEED: "What stands as testament to our commitment to Lebanese designers came after the Beirut blast on August 4, 2020. We took it upon ourselves to raise funds to rebuild the studios that many of them lost in the explosion, enabling them to return to their creative passions in a short period of time." *houseoftoday.com* —JACQUELINE TERREBONNE

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: MATTIA IOTTI; TAREK MOKKADDEM; GERMAN LARKIN; CARL HALAL