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Six highlights from next week's PAD design fair, where eclecticism is the name of the game











London's most luxurious design fair comes to Berkeley Square once again from 30 September to 6 October

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By Caroline Roux
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ondon's most luxurious design fair, <u>PAD</u>, comes to Berkeley Square once again from 30 September to 6 October. "It really feels like the beginning of our trading year," says Oscar Graf, who opened his Paris gallery 9 years ago, and a London outpost a couple of months back.

This year, as usual, the fair's co-founder Patrick Perrin, has tried to keep things fresh with the introduction of 11 new galleries, including contemporary jewellery exhibitors Taffin from New York, and specialists in post-war French ceramics, Thomas Fritsch-Artrium.



"On the first day, collectors will happily snap up the first – pieces by Nic Webb and Eleanor Lakeland. People just love having unique objects. Interior designers are more interested in finding out how my artists work."

Oscar Graf says he likes the freedom that PAD provides. "It allows for eclecticism and discovery," he says. "And this year we are being a lot more eclectic, so visitors can discover new things."

He points out that his new London space is just a stone's throw away in Mount Street. "I'll certainly be directing people there too," he admits. "But the fair is quite compelling. It won't be as easy as it sounds."





Imbizo stools by Chuma Maweni



Southern Guild is coming to London from Cape Town for the first time with a range of contemporary work that shows South African design in a new light.

Among an impressive array of designers is Chuma Maweni whose hand-thrown stools and side tables, finished in various metallic glazes, have an almost industrially precise slickness. Yet Maweni makes every ridge and incision by hand and no two pieces are the same.

Sabine Marcelis with Side Gallery



Totem lights by Sabine Marcelis



Marcelis is an ice-blonde Dutch designer who works from a chic studio in Rotterdam.

Previous designs have included lamps where polished blocks of marble provide plinths for delicate circles of neon light, and a series of fountains made in translucent resin for Fendi which have been shown all over the world. Barcelona gallery Side is showing her Totem lights, in resin and neon, as part of their PAD debut.

Carpenters Workshop



Double Bubble by Rick Owens

Carpenters Workshop currently has an exhibition of fashion designer Rick Owens furniture filling its Mayfair gallery.

His presence at PAD will include the Double Bubble, a plywood and upholstery sofa first shown in 2013. Owens says his furniture design is like the couture arm of his business – slow, stately and meant to last.



Portuondo Gallery



Rug by Alexander Calder

Portuondo, with spaces in London and Madrid, is all about aesthetics, mixing up exquisite pieces from across the 20th century, chosen for their looks.

The Alexander Calder rug is a rare piece from 1975, one of six woven in the Pinton Mill in Felletin, France. The artist is best known for mobiles that function like three-dimensional paintings, but Calder also turned his hand to everything from theatre design to jewellery. And rugs.



Christopher Kurtz with Sarah Myerscough



Skipping Stones by Christopher Kurtz

The London-based Myerscough looks for the very finest craft techniques as well as high design values in her chosen artists. Christopher Kurtz, who works from a studio in the Hudson Valley.

This table, called the Skipping Stone Console, is made of ash, black walnut, cherry and white oak treated to a range of finishes – oiled, burnt and burnished with graphite. Kurtz used to go skimming stones with his father, a calligrapher. This, then, is a table that tells a tale.

CR Ashbee with Oscar Graf





Leather panel by CR Ashbee

Graf is without doubt the youngest gallery at the fair, but don't expect cutting-edge contemporary design. This year, for example, he is bringing a leather panel by the British artist and designer CR Ashbee panel, among other 1878-1918 delights.

The panel was one of 18 which were integrated into the decoration of a house in Hereford in 1892. Others showed ships and flowers. "But we think this is a pomegranate," says Graf of the organic, gilded object shown.

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