

أيام التصميم دبي

DESIGN
DAYS
DUBAI



Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Advance by Charles Tzorefyan 2015

The Art of Collecting

CURVE

EXPLORE FURTHER AND CHECK WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR CITY

In order to better understand the market, gain a broader perspective on design and cultivate your preferences, keep track of all the latest happenings in the design scene by attending exhibitions and fairs. According to **Barbara Kamler-Wild/ Wiener Silber Manufactur**, "Inform yourself, visit many shows, fairs, galleries, ateliers, and find out what your individual preferences and expectations are. Be open and take this sector of creative work seriously."

As **Judy Straten of Judy Straten Art-Design (Horst, The Netherlands)** notes, "Visit design fairs, design/art galleries, museums but also art fairs because then you can get a broader vision what design means to you."

This edition of Design Days Dubai is a good place to begin because it provides a special platform for contemporary design, with over 40 exhibitors from 20 countries, including new talents being showcased from not only the UAE but, for the first time this year, Kuwait and Qatar. In co-director of **J.C.T Haute Couture Interiors (Paris)**, **Aurélia Bire's** view, "Fairs and design weeks have emerged as annual events to gather and discuss what is happening within the design field. These are the most dynamic platforms for a global overview of developments in design."

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Your reference point should be the designers or design movements that best encapsulate what you are looking for because even as a first-time collector, you will soon realise that personal preferences aren't enough to form a solid foundation for design collections. Once you develop an awareness of the kind of aesthetic you're interested in, be it handcrafted or industrial, vintage or contemporary, minimalist or ornate, you can explore further.

Best said by **Maximilian Büsser/M.A.D. Gallery**: "Try to understand how the icons became icons; usually by disrupting their universe and often coupled with innovative engineering or splendid craftsmanship. Learn about the creators themselves, and what made them tick. Understand their historical significance. Design is a mirror of human history."

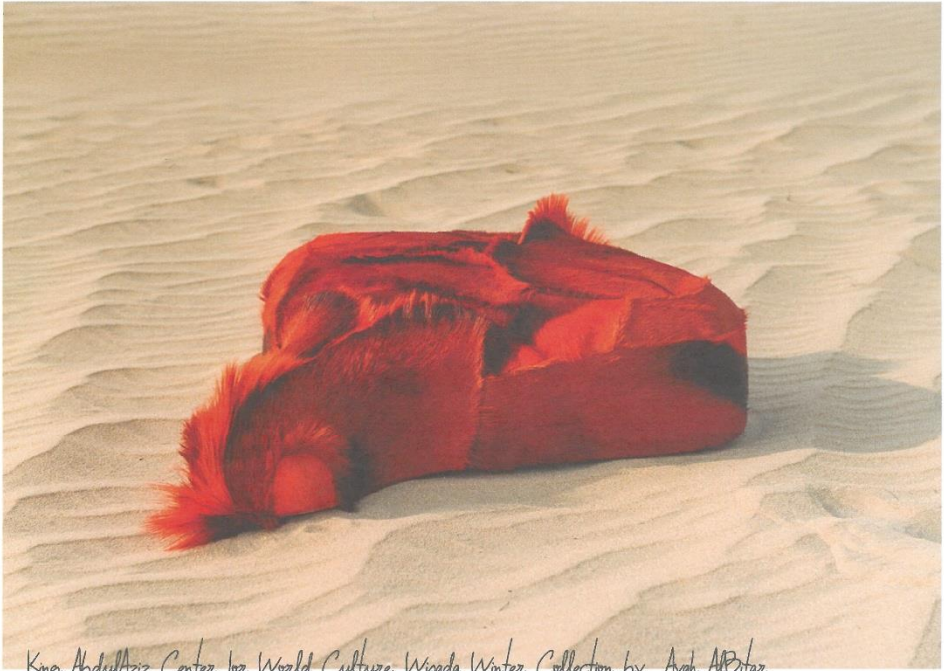
"First buy the books that explain the great designers – the WHY is often much more important than the WHAT. Then once you have understood what inspires you, get that piece you really want. And then the second, and the third... Curating is just like life..." continues **Maximilian**.

GROW YOUR COLLECTION BY TALKING TO THE GALLERISTS

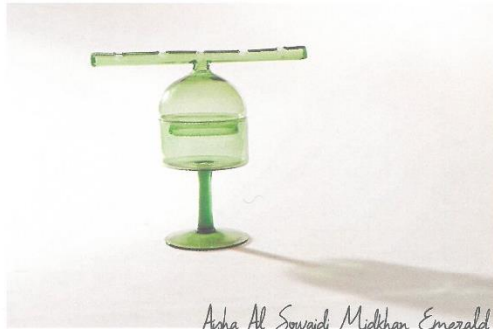
Find a gallery you trust in terms of curatorial expertise and with works that you appreciate. Galleries are very resourceful when it comes to the artists and designers they represent, so once you find a few that you are comfortable with in terms of their aesthetic leanings, milk them for all they are worth and don't be afraid to ask questions.

When approaching gallery booths at a fair, of **Aurélia Bire/J.C.T Haute Couture Interiors (Paris)** advises, "Be laid-back and ask all the questions you have in mind. Be specific if you have a special request and be clear. For example, 'I am looking for a table, I want something matching this room and my budget is this much.' The gallery might have something in mind to meet your need which is not on display."

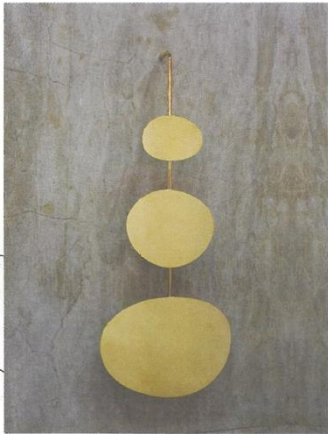
Let the experts guide you. "I find most galleries in fairs are so excited about their pieces that they are great educators about the designers and are willing to guide novices and experienced collectors alike," **Mohamed Maktabi/Iwan Maktabi** adds.



King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture, Wisada Winter Collection by Ayah Al Otari



Asha Al Sowaidi Midkhan Emerald Green



JCT Interiors, by Anabela Brandt



Squad Design Square One by Tarek El Kasouf