

Design Miami exhibits address the FRAGILITY OF NATURE

FURNITURE — Nobody's perfect. It's an axiom that was emphasized at Design Miami in December. The ways in which people produce, consume and discard materials nowadays — and the alarming depletion of natural resources — illustrate a gross neglect of the world we live in. Holding up a mirror to the situation, designers

presented eclectic and sometimes grotesque furniture that prompted visitors to sit up and pay attention. Utilizing scrap, rubbish and industrial waste to make functional objects, these designers question the contemporary notion of a product's life cycle as it relates to the fragility and beauty of nature. — LG

Courtesy of Friedman Benda and Chris Schanck



Foregoing flawless luxury, Detroit-based designer CHRIS SCHANCK, represented by Friedman Benda, transforms the perfect imperfections found in discarded materials into his Alufoil collection. Schanck gathers industrial waste, shapes it into items of furniture and covers the objects in resin-sealed aluminium. Evoking the grotesque and the unusual, Alufoil effectively conveys humanity's shameful treatment of nature.

christopherschanck.com



Courtesy of Cristina Grajales Gallery and Mike and Doug Starn

In a solo exhibition at the Cristina Grajales Gallery, identical twins MIKE and DOUG STARN showcased *Sits Like a Man, But Smiles Like a Reptile*. Tangled, tied and left undone, their lounge chairs and coffee table – composed primarily of bamboo and rock-climbing cord – skim past the artistic realm and into the living room. The intimate setting breathed an air of connection and interdependence.

dmstarn.com



Courtesy of Friedman Benda and Estudio Campana

Perhaps an augury of things to come is the CAMPANA BROTHERS' Hybridism collection, which includes Noah vases and candleholders in cast iron and bronze that reveal the designers' ingenious interpretation of the political instability and environmental vulnerability of our existence. The chimerical pieces, presented at Friedman Benda's show, quite literally depict the destructive and dark realities that surround us.

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