

# 01 unique design x

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Jacqueline Daly | February 02, 2026

## UNIQUE DESIGN X

The nomadic platform for collectible design rolled into Mexico City during Art Week at Expo Reforma from 5th to 8th February. It was launched in 2019 by Morgan Morris Sans, an art and design-world stalwart, and shakes-up the experience, fostering crossovers between skate culture and functional art within a framework exploring creativity and design as a language of cultural exchange. The fair attracts international galleries spanning art, fashion, architecture and design, and has previously landed in major cities such as Shanghai, Miami and Riyadh. It also focuses on strengthening creative ties between Mexico City and Paris, planning events around art weeks in both cities. Its latest outing was a whirlwind of pop-ups, immersive installations, design launches, and featured a skate-art obstacle course to support and engage with non-profit youth organisations. Here are some of the highlights:



The work of Emilio Flores, pictured above, will be presented by Marion Friedmann Gallery. Photography courtesy of Marion Friedmann Gallery

### Marion Friedmann Gallery

Friedmann opened her [London gallery](#) in 2011 to showcase exceptional works exploring tradition and social narratives through design, craft and art with a focus on Latin America and Mexico. At this year's fair, she presented two sculptures by the contemporary Mexican artist Jorge Yázpik (one a large volcanic stone sculpture), and a new monumental chair and table by the young Mexican artist Emilio Flores (pictured above). Also new was a wall-glass installation by glass artist and jewellery designer Luisa Restrepo and ceramicist Miguel Ángel Carrera's wall ceramics and marble credenza. The gallery recently added Oaxacan artist Sabino Guisu, one of Mexico's most exciting talents, to its roster of creatives. He experiments with numerous materials such as honey, bees, mushrooms, wool, wood, silver, stone and neon, and his room divider-screen – hand forged in metal with Obsidian pieces – was on show alongside a huge ceramic vessel. The artist comes from a family of ceramic artisans in Zapotec Oaxaca.

### Adrian Cruz Elements and ACCA Editions

Mexican architect [Adrián Cruz](#) creates striking, translucent lighting designs from his eponymous studio in Belgium. He works with resin using a technique learnt from his grandfather, which is mixed with precious materials such as Mexican onyx (his father was a geologist). ACCA Editions, the studio he co-founded with interior designer Carmen Arechiga, establishes collaborations with interior designers, architects and artists to create collectible handmade pieces, which are crafted by master artisans in ateliers between Italy and Mexico. The result is colourful, functional sculptures referencing the duo's cultural background.

### Karolina Ciecholewska

The Polish [sculptor and designer](#) based in New York City produces work exploring themes of power, memory, and the long shadow of conflict. She showcased her monumental chandelier, a piece made in response to the invasion of Ukraine, which is part of a series of artworks inspired by the decorative lighting found in political interiors and palaces. They are made up of thousands of porcelain soldiers based on the popular toys around the world. "Often, when we think of wars and numbers we can't seem to grasp the idea of individuals behind it," says the artist. The pieces are meticulously attached together, fired and glazed. The chandelier is the biggest piece in the series consisting of nineteen individual porcelain elements each handmade and assembled on a metal structure. "I use porcelain to explore the disconnect between political power and its human consequences," Ciecholewska explains. "Porcelain, traditionally associated with refinement and status, but also called 'white gold', became a currency of war in the 18th century. Here it serves a dual purpose: symbolising both the grandeur of authority and the fragility of those affected by it."



Adrian Cruz's Tona lamp with a studded collar and a "Bulbe" in crystal resin. The pedestal is sculpted in Mexican onyx. Photography courtesy of Adrian Cruz



Karolina Ciecholewska's chandelier is made up of multiple porcelain toy soldiers – a response to the Ukraine war, and a means of exploring the disconnect between political power and its human consequences. Photography courtesy of Karolina Ciecholewska

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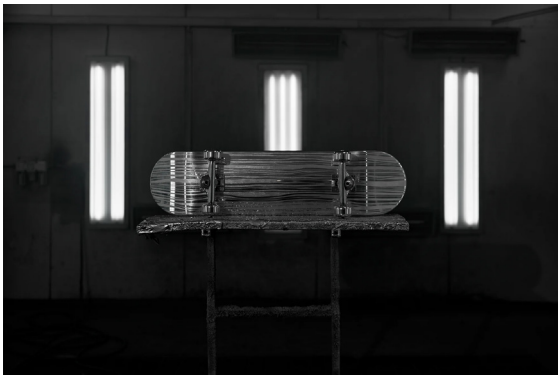
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The Casa Bosques Bookshop, founded in Mexico City by Rafael Prieto and Jorge de la Garza. Photography courtesy of Casa Bosques

### Casa Bosques

Nestling in the Roma Norte neighbourhood of Mexico City, this beautifully curated bookstore founded in 2012 by Rafael Prieto and Jorge de la Garza, specialises in literature spanning art, design, fashion and architecture. It showcased its catalogue obtained through distribution channels such as art book fairs, trips abroad, and works directly from its authors.



Niceworkshop Skateboard, 2024, for Pharrell Williams / JOOPITER. Photography courtesy of Niceworkshop

### Niceworkshop

The Seoul-based design studio founded by Oh Hyunseong in 2021 transforms industrial materials – bolts, nuts and aluminium formwork – into experimental, high-end furniture and objects. Known for the "Bolt Series," the studio emphasises material exploration and has gained an international following, contributing to Rimowa's "As Seen By" exhibition in Paris in October 2021 and a project with fashion designer Rick Owens. It also designed this skateboard for Pharrell Williams' JOOPITER platform in 2024. Williams' own skateboard was reinterpreted using aluminium, exploring a new approach to material and form. As part of Niceworkshop's 'Neo Naturalism' series, the project examines the fusion of artificial materials, modern technology and handcrafted techniques.



Casa Meztitla, a vacation home at the foot of the Tepozteco mountain. Photography courtesy of EDAA

### EDAA

EDAA, the Mexico City architecture and creative practice founded in 2007 by architect Luis Arturo Garcia integrates architecture with other mediums such as collectible design. The practice highlighted its Casa Meztitla project, a vacation home at the foot of the Tepozteco mountain encased in walls of volcanic stone that blend into the rugged backdrop, with expanses of glass that open the property up to its surroundings.



The late master artisan Dolores Porras, who used colour to transform the ceramic tradition of Mexico's Santa María Atzompa in Oaxaca. Photography courtesy of Onora Casa

### Onora Casa

Maggie Galton and Maria Eladia Hagerman, co-founders of Onora, have backgrounds in design and the conservation of artisanal Mexican handicrafts. Their shared passion led them to establish a design studio and store in 2013, which collaborates with local artisans to create contemporary, high-end home accessories, textiles, and furniture. At the fair, they presented three exceptional ceramic pieces from the workshop of the late master artisan Dolores Porras, who used colour to transform the ceramic tradition of Mexico's Santa María Atzompa in Oaxaca into an art form.



Liana Yaroslavsky of Lika Atelier with her Stillness in Blue and Recinto Side Tables in glass and stone. Photography courtesy of Lika Atelier

### Lika Atelier

Born in St. Petersburg and schooled at New York's Parsons School of Design, Liana Yaroslavsky creates standout pieces in crystal, glass, wood, stone and metal at her atelier, probing the juxtapositions of fragility, force and memory. At the fair, she presented a selection of sculptural furniture and lighting exploring balance, weight and transparency through glass and stone. The works investigate the material contrast and structural tension between them, blurring the lines between functional design and sculpture.

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*Katja Loher's transportative exhibitions include Seeds of Life #3, at The Middle House in Shanghai. Photography courtesy of Katja Loher*

### Antología Design and Katja Loher

Guatemala-based design studio [Antología Design](#) and Swiss visual artist [Katja Loher](#) unveiled a collaborative site specific work named *The Geometry of Connection*. The piece explored the hexagon – a symbol of balance and universal geometry – as a means of fusing art and design within an immersive gravity-free space inspired by the notion of a floating carpet. Videoplanets, sculptural furniture and mirrored elements formed a sensory environment in which visitors were invited to linger and absorb the atmosphere.



*Sofia Hagen's Swivel is a dual-use stool and planter made of 3D printed fermented sugar and wood fibre. Photography courtesy of Sofia Hagen*

### Sofia Hagen

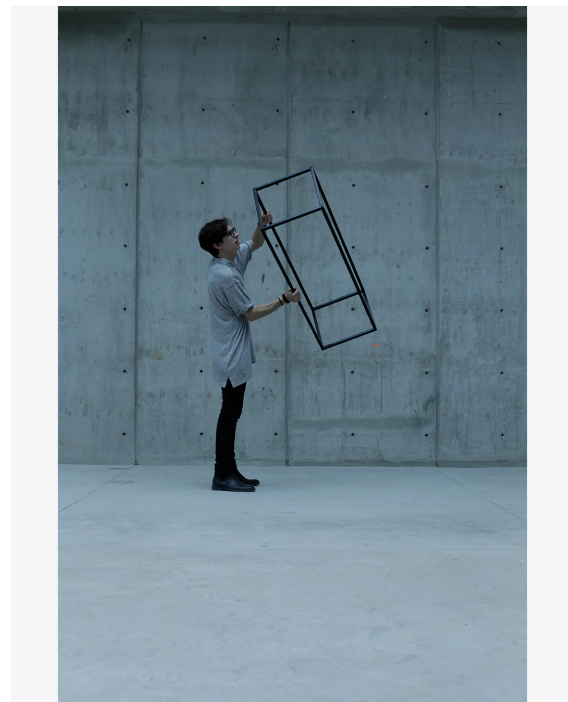
The London-based designer and architect leads a [practice](#) working at the intersection of art, design and technology and creates sculptural objects and immersive experiences. She presented the HEMPLA – Meditation Pit Stop at the fair, a collaboration with the rug and tapestry brand Studio Mami and the bespoke sound production company The Sound Nutritionist, manifesting as a tactile, meditative space for pause and reconnection, which explored design as a tool for wellbeing.



*Shown is Duo Muse's Modular and Cube chair, with the Vinyl Rack (back). Photography courtesy of Duo Muse*

### Duo Muse

Camila Torres and Andrea Lopez are a [design duo](#) creating furniture fusing art and design. They presented "La raíz de la transformación" – a design project born from the origins of wood (its root), which explores how material evolves from its purest state into functional form. Eight chairs in different tones honour the natural journey of the material, where grain, texture and colour lend each piece a unique identity. Created collaboratively with Mexican artisans and designers using native materials and conscious processes, the project invited the viewer to look beyond function and reconnect with nature.



*Esteban Tamayo is a multidisciplinary Mexican designer known for his unique approach to industrial and fashion design. Photography courtesy of Tamayo*

### Esteban Tamayo

Esteban Tamayo, who is on the Board of Advisors at Unique Design X, hosted a pop-up shop with his fashion brand [Tiempos](#). The designer creates pieces underpinned by craftsmanship, drawing references from the urban environment and Mexico's cultural narratives. Tiempos's apparel segues from hand-made upcycled denim to cool knits and leather shorts.