All the Design Shows Worth Seeing in London This Month

Amidst the city's flurry of fairs, galleries and museums host odes to design
By Brook Mason | 4 October, 2017

With London's PAD, Frieze, and a bevy of other fairs in full swing, the city is also jam-packed with a slew of galleries and museums headlining top-tier design. From designs completed practically yesterday to work stretching back to the Arts and Crafts movement, there's no shortage of inspiration in the British city; here's what not to miss.

**Sheila Hicks at Alison Jacques Gallery**

The Paris-based textile artist Sheila Hicks, who has long been making waves when it comes to weaving astonishing sculptures and tapestries, is having a moment these days, what with her monumental installation on New York's High Line. On view at the *Alison Jacques Gallery* is a plethora of Hicks’ early and recent work, including the octogenarian’s series of "Grand Boules." Comprised of linen, cotton, and even metallic yarn, the hassocklike forms are the perfect perch for seating and are complemented by a stunning cascade of woven forms in ocher hanging from the ceiling.
Galerie Kreo

Also Paris-based, Galerie Kreo, which opened an outpost here in 2014, is offering a group show at its Mayfair gallery. "The exhibition includes some ahead-of-the-curve design from the latest collections by Hella Jongerius, Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, and Jaime Hayon," says gallery cofounder Clémence Krzentowski. "Now with collectors throughout Europe and the States along with those in Asia and the Middle East seeking work by these designers, their reach is totally global."

Interior designers taking on their work include Caroline Sarkozy, Pierre Yovanovitch, Muriel Brandolini, and Steven Volpe.

"Future Classics" at David Gill Gallery

Right opposite Christie’s, the David Gill Gallery is presenting "Future Classics." On view is Zaha Hadid’s iconic crystal-like table in acrylic, with legs which appear like cascades of water, and Mattia Bonetti’s signature bronze Bubblegum table as well as his gilded bronze Volcan side tables. Barnaby Bamford has long commanded attention when it comes to working in clay, from his Aqua mirror composed of thousands of delicate flowers to his small ceramic houses. "Even though some of the examples on view were created almost two decades ago, the very forms and concepts remain enduring," says Gill.
May Morris at William Morris Gallery
Who doesn’t swoon over the 19th-century Arts and Crafts designer William Morris? Turns out his talent runs in the family. At the William Morris Gallery, which happens to be the Morris family home in northeast London, "May Morris: Art & Life" opens October 17. The show is devoted to his younger daughter’s creative endeavors from exquisite embroidery to jewelry, wallpaper, and more dating from 1895. With her deft hands, she elevated mere needlework to the upper echelons of design.

"Plywood" at the V&A Museum
If that’s not enough, the V&A Museum is featuring “Plywood: Material of the Modern World,” which is packed with design by Marcel Breuer, Alvar Aalto, and Charles and Ray Eames. A cluster of sculptural ice-skating shelters by the Canadian Parkau Architects, which are front and center in the museum garden, could prove the timeless qualities of this once lowly material.

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