



Press Release: Immediate

Southern Guild creates a nature-inspired fantasy-scape by iconic South African artist Porky Hefer for Design Miami 2018

Southern Guild returns to Design Miami from 4-9 December with a collection of visceral and immersive work that defines a bold new vernacular for collectible African design.

Following up on the sell-out success of Porky Hefer's work at this year's Design Miami/Basel, Southern Guild's booth will feature four of his cocoon-like seating environments handcrafted from leather and woven grass. Suspended from the ceiling, wall mounted and floor based, the works mimic forms found in nature to transport audiences to a childlike state, awake to instinct and immediate perception.

Hefer's works have become an intriguing feature on the global design circuit. His human-scale nests and living pods are both fantasy world and functional furniture – beautifully crafted, they evoke innocence and wild abandon. Their apparent playfulness belies the depth of thinking inherent in the work. Recurring themes are the loss of instinct, humanity's preoccupation with received wisdom, and the lessons implicit in the natural world. Hefer has had numerous solo presentations of his work, including at R & Company, New York, the inaugural London Design Biennale, and Design Miami/Basel 2018, where Southern Guild and SFA Advisory co-presented his acclaimed project *Endangered* to benefit the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation.

At Design Miami, Southern Guild will also launch a number of specially commissioned new works in bronze. These include a biomorphic table by Kenyan-born sculptor Stanislaw Trzebinski, titled *Extra Terrestrial*; a pair of zoomorphic seats by rising star Atang Tshikare; Xandre Kriel's reductive *Vos Altar* table, featuring folded-steel legs and a softly textured bronze slab; and Charles Haupt's organic *Tropism Mensa Foliorum* table reflecting patterns found in nature.

"Our artists have a deep connectivity to their chosen materials and the natural world that surrounds them in Africa. Each has a distinctly unique viewpoint, conveyed through the works and the stories they tell," said Julian McGowan, co-founder of Southern Guild.

This is the sixth year that Southern Guild has exhibited at Design Miami. The gallery has spearheaded the collectible design category in Africa, propelling artists and designers to

make spirited, challenging, and complex work. A decade old this year, its rigorous programme has shaped global perceptions of African design, exploring culture, heritage and narrative, and forging a unique vernacular in the marketplace.

Southern Guild became the first African gallery to present at Design Miami in 2011, and in 2015 it was the first to be featured at Christie's London's annual design auction. Works from the gallery's collection have been included in *Making Africa*, Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein (2015); *Beauty*: Cooper Hewitt Design Triennial, New York (2016); and the permanent collection of the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. The Southern Guild gallery is based in Cape Town's Silo District, adjacent to the new Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (MOCAA).

Jennifer Roberts, chief executive officer of Design Miami/, said the fair organisers were particularly excited about Southern Guild's involvement this year: "Following on from one of the most successful exhibitions in Basel, we are thrilled Southern Guild can join us for a sixth year in Miami Beach showcasing some of South Africa's most interesting and innovative designers on a global stage."

Visit Southern Guild at **Booth G22** at Design Miami 2018.

About Design Miami/

Design Miami/ is the global forum for design. Each fair brings together the most influential collectors, gallerists, designers, curators, and critics from around the world in celebration of design culture and commerce. Occurring alongside the Art Basel fairs in Miami, Florida, each December and Basel, Switzerland, each June, Design Miami/ has become the premier venue for collecting, exhibiting, discussing, and creating collectible design.

Design Miami/ is more than a marketplace for design, where the world's top galleries gather to present museum-quality exhibitions of twentieth and twenty-first century furniture, lighting, and objets d'art. Each show balances exclusive commercial opportunities with progressive cultural programming, creating exciting collaborations with designers and design institutions, panels and lectures with luminaries from the worlds of design, architecture, art, and fashion, and unique commissions from the world's top emerging and established designers and architects.

By continuously expanding and enriching its program, Design Miami/ seeks to not only satisfy the demand for a high-end design fair, but also to broaden awareness of modern and contemporary design, fuel the market for collectible design, and provide an exciting yet accessible destination for collectors and enthusiasts alike.

Artists featured at Design Miami 2018: Adam Birch, Atang Tshikare, Andile Dyalvane, Babacar Niang, Charles Haupt, Chuma Maweni, Conrad Botes, David Krynauw, Dylan

Lewis , Gregor Jenkin Studio, Jesse Ede, Jop Kunneke, Justine Mahoney, Kobus La Grange, Madoda Fani, Porky Hefer, Stanislaw Trzebinski, Xandre Kriel, Zizipho Poswa

HIGHLIGHTS FOR PRESS:



Atang Tshikare

Atang Tshikare's narrative-laden works spring from his fertile imagination and deep connection to local mythology. His bronze chairs, *Leng-Kapa-Leng* ('anytime' in Setswana) and *Yang-Kapa-Yang* ('anyhow' in Setswana), are inspired by the rocky outcrops of the sacred Modimolle mountain in Limpopo. A recipient of the Design Foundation 2014 Future Found Award, Tshikare's zootropic sculptural works caused a stir at Design Miami/ 2016.



Andile Dyalvane

Born in Qobo-Qobo, a small village in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa, Andile Dyalvane is one of South Africa's most esteemed ceramicists. *Gaz'tyeketye* ('non-genetically modified maize' in Xhosa) is part of the *Idladla* ('grain silo' in Xhosa) series, which pays tribute to the central role that maize cultivation plays in Xhosa culture. Dyalvane has earned residencies around the world and is also represented by Friedman

Benda in New York. He is the co-founder of Imiso Ceramics and recipient of the 2015 Design Foundation Icon Award.



Chuma Maweni

Chuma Maweni's hand-thrown ceramic table and stools are a timeless evolution of his meditative vessels. Every part of *Imbizo* ('gathering' in Xhosa) has been handcrafted, including the surface of the table, which saw the artist carve into wood for the first time. Chuma grew up in the Transkei, where his earliest memories include making clay figures of bulls and cows on the muddy riverbanks. His distinctive approach combines contemporary hand-coiled shapes marked with precisely patterned incisions.



Madoda Fani

Bold and emblazoned with character, the ceramic work of Madoda Fani carries a dramatically unique sensibility, with his smoke-fired vessels following a contemporary approach to the age-old medium. His shapes and decorative patterns are often inspired by cattle and their symbolism in Xhosa culture. *Inkosazana* ('girl' or 'princess' in Xhosa) marks a shift into bronze as well as towards a more classically influenced, sculptural approach based on the human form.



Porky Hefer

Porky Hefer's works have become an intriguing fixture on the global design circuit. His human-scale nests and living pods are both fantasy world and functional furniture—beautifully crafted, they evoke innocence and wild abandon. By engaging with these transformative works audiences return to a childlike state, awake to instinct and immediate perception. Hefer has had numerous solo presentations of his work, including at R & Company, New York, the inaugural London Design Biennale, and Design Miami/Basel 2018, where Southern Guild and SFA Advisory co-presented his acclaimed project *Endangered* to benefit the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation.



Stanislaw Trzebinski

Born and raised in Mombasa, Kenya, Stanislaw Trzebinski's sculptures take inspiration from the natural wonders of the Rift Valley and the East African coast. Working from his Cape Town-based studio, he creates fantastical works that appear to bear the

weathered marks of time as well as signs of new life. In 2017 Southern Guild presented his work at the bi-annual design auction at Christie's, London.



Xandre Kriel

The desk version of Xandre Kriel's reductive *Vos Altar* table features a softly textured bronze surface whose patina will enrich over time. The aesthetic appeal of form is Kriel's motivating force and he draws inspiration from materials in their natural state, observing and emphasising character through a manipulation of shape and perspective.



Zizipho Poswa

An accomplished maker of bowls, vessels and vases, Zizipho Poswa pushes her medium to a monumental level with her *Ukukhula* ('growth' in Xhosa) series. A play on the duality of masculinity and femininity, aggression and protection, the pair of sculptures is inspired by the artist's experience as an independent Xhosa woman. Poswa is the co-founder of Imiso Ceramics.

For hi-res images, interview requests and any media enquiries, please email Kelly Berman at kelly@theguildgroup.co.za

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