DESIGN SHOP

Testing the Limits of Glass, Hemp, Steel, Clay, and Paper Craft standouts from New York design week

By Alexandra Lange
Photographs by Andrew Kung

JUNE 11, 2015

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During New York design week, there's an unofficial category of creations that could be grouped under the question *Can I touch this?* Some of the pieces in the Design Week Preview, which ran last year, were only to be drawn in, often because the designer's working field could be the limits of what's possible. The following are a few of the works that dazzled and confounded.

Michael Gittings's Oxidized Steel Furniture

Image Courtesy of Michael Gittings

Via Michael Gittings Website, Image Courtesy of Michael Gittings

The Australian designer Michael Gittings began his career working with copper, but during the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy, the city's all "corporate-friendly" he admitted, and he switched to making furniture, much of it out of stainless steel. Several years ago, he tried a new technique, mirror-polishing industrial sheets normally used in building applications and then oxidizing them, a process that produces a rainbow effect which confused the metal. This process has been applied to black, blue, or bronze patina in the sheets, which he used to create a cabinet that looks like a Rothko painting, a table that looks like a Rothko painting, and a mirror Rotten and moody. They can be tried the technique on an armchair, which looks oddly comfortable. If still formidable. That piece, along with the cabinet, will be on view at the Gittings showroom in Chelsea. Visit Gittings online to see Web Page and the rest of the current.

Chris Gustin's Clay 'Spirit Series'

Image Courtesy of Chris Gustin

Image Courtesy of Chris Gustin

Image Courtesy Chris Gustin, Left: Jar Crack Series Bottle Jugger Jar Spirits, Jar Crack Series Bottle

Chris Gustin's Clay 'Spirit Series'

Image Courtesy of Chris Gustin

At Dwindle this May, the ceramicist Chris Gustin debuted a new collection — the spirits Series — which blew up the scale of his previous exhibiting work. Gustin's pieces are made from a local clay he discovered on a trip through upstate, which he started building with an overall cross-section of clay, rather than the classic wheel-thrown centre. For Gustin, that change opened up the form, and he began to think about the pieces as vessels for "personalities," which led to his Cloud series, a collection that was his first foray into more abstract sculpture than functional vessel. The works in his Spirit Series, which he began last year, are more functional than Cloud, but in the artist himself, they've each gotten, with their distinct forms, their works can live outdoors. Or even at Dwindle through June 27.

MYSTERY AT THE GROOMS' JUNE 19–20, 2015 BECOME AN INVITED INSPECTOR BUY TICKETS

Image Courtesy of Curbed

Image Courtesy of Curbed

Sticky Glass' Deflated Sconces

The Sticky Glass Deflated Sconces, Image Courtesy of Sticky Glass

The Sticky Glass' Deflated Sconces

Glass designer Grace Whiteside has been working with what they call "sticky glass" since graduating from Parsons in 2012. The stuff, she says, has had and pretty it fold handkerchiefs glass into tapered cones. For the sconces that they showed at this year's new trade fair, Shelter by Abramson Lights, she wrapped the material around a form, then compressed it into a deflated cylinder. When they are not formed on the wall, the sconces resemble a crumpled gray, but when illuminated, they reveal a vibrant red orange gradient — the layer of color that's only applied to the inside. Yet Sticky Glass's big at the personal scale of Jonathan Nichols's of a, says Whiteside, is "glass with a part of a show at Jonathan Nichols's Gallery, opening from 5.

Image Courtesy of Sticky Glass

Sticky Glass's Deflated Sconces, Image Courtesy of Sticky Glass

Samuel Aguirre's Paper Lamps

Photo: Eric Hanneman

The paper lamps that Providence-based designer Samuel Aguirre debuted at the Wanted Gallery in NYC's Soho by Jesse Hunt from a linear spirit's home. Since he's designed them to be remarkable, it's not that he blocked the lamps from the sunlight, but he made them, in the words of Curbed NYC, "less experimental-looking with paper because of these qualities. He makes the paper himself out of plant fibers like mulberry bark, cotton, and hemp, experimenting with the ratio of fiber to sapsuly binders to test how the material would respond to light. The lamps, he said, "are a kind of a crumpled shape. The Aguirre previously showed a rumbled chair, also made out of paper, that seems to use the frame of their people black paper can be, with this collection, he seems to have fully embraced its malleable, earthy nature.

Photo: Eric Hanneman

RIDE's Furniture From Coats of Grass

Photo: Ben Gebbie

At 21 Chapel, a nature-warp counts-lover designed by RIV-R, a monochromatic assemblage of furniture and wall pieces stuck out the ground floor as part of a dust-covered by Venice's first Nolli design gallery. The pieces, made of coconut fiber, coconut husks, and sisal, are the finished version of the concrete bench covered. In fact, it's the result of a yearlong research project by RIDE, a Venice-Arsen based studio. The Venice-based designers, Alessandro Ciffo and Giovanni Ciffo, have coordinated entire pieces of Aquatinto Parque region. To create the forms, they dried and assembled the grass to create her models, which are buried in the ground, and then used the same technique to create furniture from the form. The resulting works create a permanent version of the Eagle pieces, and in the process they have created something that feels ancient and a little otherworldly.

Image Courtesy of Ben Gebbie

Image Courtesy of Ben Gebbie

Image Courtesy of Ben Gebbie

Image Courtesy of Ben Gebbie

Soft-Geometry's Hemp Braid Sconces

Image Courtesy of Soft-Geometry

Image Courtesy of Soft-Geometry

For the two Indian designers who make up Soft-Geometry, a shared Sunday afternoon ritual of their family members sitting, braiding, and caring for hemp rope, inspired a collection of lamps. Over the course of the last three, Ottoman & Jackson and Nakash Chandhary experimented with a material new to them, Army. They found its lightweight, ecological qualities and its ability to take on color, and they began to experiment with ways to create something that would form a small-scale cool. After trying those forms for weeks, the designers pointed them with a first layer of Sun mark and then a second layer of Sun mark and Sun mark. The resulting sconces are flexible and versatile, resulting in "bundle" of hemp modules that can be placed in any number of arrangements on the wall. Like some of the other designers in this round-up, they have created something that feels ancient, which they call "primitive." The sconces were included in the show Materials Re, organized by Sidh Hosmani and Lyle Ludwig, and are available on soft-geometry.

Image Courtesy of Soft-Geometry

Image Courtesy of Soft-Geometry

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LATEST STORIES

WHO'S BUYING | 10:12 A.M.

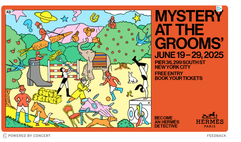
Bob Odenkirk Bought a Clinton Hill Co-op The *Better Call Saul* actor paid 10 percent over asking for the prewar two-bedroom.

ON SET | 8:00 A.M.

Before Supreme Blew Up The shop on Lafayette was our clubhouse.

STREET FIGHTS | YESTERDAY AT 4:26 P.M.

Who Gets to Use This Dead End in Chinatown? A battle over a cul-de-sac is playing out between longtime residents, car owners, and Nick Poe's scene-y bar Time Again.



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NEIGHBORHOOD | YESTERDAY AT 10:45 A.M.

Brad Lander's Gowanus Victory Lap For the mayoral candidate, the neighborhood is a preview of the city he promises to build.

UNDER A MILLION | JUNE 10, 2025

A Prospect Heights One-Bed With Beamed Ceilings and a Fresh Renovation for $695K And a true three-bedroom in Kensington that we almost couldn't believe.

PARKS AND RECREATION | JUNE 9, 2025

Good News About Beech Leaf Disease The city's forests may be in trouble, but scientists have developed some ingenious ways to save them.

By Robert Sullivan

CELEBRITY REAL ESTATE | JUNE 6, 2025

It's Time for a Parker Posey Home-Renovation Show Finally, here's one we would binge-watch.

THE BUSINESS OF BROKERING | JUNE 4, 2025

How Landlords Are Preparing for the End of the Broker Fee They're raising rents, planning their own showings, and feeling very inconvenienced.

RENDERING JUDGMENT | JUNE 4, 2025

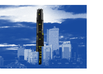
They're Really Building That, Huh The Torch is the latest in the gimmick-skyscraper era.

INFLUENCING | JUNE 4, 2025

The Many Bob Dylans of Jones Street Every week, couples appear on my block to recreate that album cover.

LISTINGS EDIT | JUNE 4, 2025

This Week's Worth-It New York City Apartment Listings Greenwich, Connecticut, in a Carnegie Hill three-bedroom.



SUPERTALL TALES | JUNE 3, 2025

Rattling Around an Empty Brooklyn Tower Silverstein relaunched sales at the Gothic supertall in June, but residents say there are perks to living in a ghost town.

COST OF LIVING | JUNE 3, 2025

Who Cents and Who Owns in This Year's Mayoral Race And what they pay, of course.

LOOK BOOK | JUNE 3, 2025

The Look Book Goes to the Young Fellows Ball Nearly 700 fresh-faced supporters of the Frick Collection dressed up in a "Porcelain Garden" theme to celebrate the museum's long-awaited reopening.

CELEBRITY REAL ESTATE | JUNE 3, 2025

Andy Cohen and Danny Strong Traded Buildings The king of Bravo and Doyle from *Gilmore Girls* have swapped West Village addresses.

UNICORNS | JUNE 3, 2025

The Duplex on East 78th That Comes With a Private Skybridge The owner, a weight-loss doctor whose client list included Donald Trump, used one of the apartments as an office.

UNDER A MILLION | JUNE 3, 2025

An Unusually Spacious Park Slope One-Bedroom for $799K Plus a Hell's Kitchen four-bedroom that's just blocks from Central Park.

GREAT ROOMS | JUNE 3, 2025

A Jackson Heights Couple Covered Their One-Bedroom in Floor-to-Ceiling Murals James McGann and Madison Berg decorated their apartment with Craigslist finds and paints from the Home Depot "Oops" section.

NOTICINGS | JUNE 2, 2025

The Midtown Ketamine Corridor A bland strip of Madison Avenue is an accidental hot spot for clinics.

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