

FAIR

10.06.2024 — 16.06.2024

**DESIGN  
MIAMI. BASEL**

**downtown+**

Hall 1 Süd  
Messe Basel  
Switzerland





# Pieces selection

# DESIGN MIAMI. BASEL

downtown+ is delighted to announce its first participation in Design Miami Basel. For this 2024 edition, downtown+ will participate in three projects presented by the fair.

The first will be its 'Curio' stand, focusing on Japan, with a mix of vintage and contemporary pieces by Japanese designers. For the contemporary side, downtown+ will be showcasing the work of architect Jun'ya Ishigami, laureate of the Venice Golden Lion in 2010, alongside pieces by Tokujin Yoshioka. These works will dialogue with vintage furniture by Sori Yanagi.

A second 'Design At Large' stand, in collaboration with Ketabi Bourdet Design, will feature an exceptional set of Bob Wilson's Hamletmachine table and chairs, part of the four prototypes designed in 1986 for the theater show of the same name.

Finally, downtown+ will also be participating in Design Miami's 'Special Project' in tribute to Gaetano Pesce, and will be exhibiting some of his historic pieces.

Tokujin Yoshioka is a Japanese designer and artist renowned for his futuristic creations and innovative explorations of materials and light. His work is distinguished by an ethereal aesthetic and an ability to transform abstract concepts into tangible, experiential objects. Yoshioka is particularly well known for his Honey Pop Chair, a chair made from lightweight, flexible honeycomb paper that unfolds like a flower to the touch. These works illustrate Yoshioka's unique vision, which sees design not only as a practical function, but also as an art form capable of deeply touching human emotions.

Tokujin Yoshioka  
Pane Chair, 2003



Tokujin Yoshioka  
Honey Pop Armchair, 2001



Jun'ya Ishigami, is a Japanese architect and designer renowned for his creations that harmoniously merge architecture and nature. Winner of the Venice Golden Lion in 2010, his work recreates magical, unexpected moments, where white light and nature are omnipresent. He combines the infinitely large and the infinitely small with delicacy, poetry and fragility, surprising and touching viewers.

Ishigami upsets our habits and destabilizes visitors, encouraging them to question their perceptions. He plays with monumentality and the illusion of lightness, juxtaposing the imposing and the insignificant.

Jun'ya Ishigami  
Picnic chair, 2011



Sori Yanagi  
'Elephant' stool, ca. 1954



Sori Yanagi is an iconic Japanese industrial designer whose creations combine simplicity, functionality and timeless aesthetics. Influenced by Japanese design philosophy, Yanagi has blended tradition and modernity in his work, creating everyday objects that are both beautiful and practical. His famous 'Butterfly Stool' chair in molded plywood is a perfect example of his minimalist, elegant approach, becoming an icon of 20th-century design.

Bob Wilson  
'Hamletmachine' table and chairs, ca. 1987



Gaetano Pesce, born November 8, 1939 in La Spezia, Italy, is an avant-garde architect and designer renowned for his experimental approach to materials and his bold use of shapes and colors. He is best known for his 'Up Series' armchair (1969), a symbol of social criticism. Pesce left his mark on design and architecture through his rejection of convention, integrating art, design and social criticism in his work. Active since the 1960s, he continues to influence the field with his teaching and innovative creations.

Gaetano Pesce  
'I Feltri' armchair, ca. 1987



Born in Waco, Texas, Wilson is one of the world's foremost theater and visual artists. This exceptional set of Hamletmachine tables and chairs by Bob Wilson is one of four prototypes designed in 1986 for the first performances of the play of the same name at New York's NYU Theater and Hamburg's Thalia Theatre. Wilson has left his mark on the stage world with his innovative, visually arresting productions.



# downtown+

Created in 2023 upon the initiative of Laffanour | Galerie Downtown and Luna Laffanour, Downtown+ brings together pieces from the gallery's collection and also works by creators from the young contemporary scene.

Over the decades, Laffanour | Galerie Downtown has showcased the work of 20th century modernist architects and has gained worldwide recognition for its exhibitions of Prouvé, Perriand and Jeanneret.

In order to explore the gallery's heritage, Luna Laffanour offers a new take on these multiple collections through a series of exhibitions, both physical and digital, where design and contemporary art will be presented together.

For the inaugural 'trônes' exhibition, downtown+ took over 72 rue de l'Université, Paris, where a selection of sculptural chairs and a series of paintings by Tim Wilson were presented from May 31 to June 3, 2023.

In December 2023 downtown+ returned to this metal trend with pieces by various designers, offering the flash sale 'metalloids' exclusively online from December 1 to 23 on its website, instagram page and on request.

For COLLECTIBLE 2024, downtown+ presented its very first scenography, designed by Luna Laffanour, last March. The stand featured a dialogue mixing iconic pieces by Ettore Sottsass, Philippe Starck, Jun'ya Ishigami, Ingo Maurer, Andrea Branzi, Archizoom, Bob Wilson and many others...

For its first appearance at the PAD, downtown+ paid tribute to Gaetano Pesce by showcasing historic pieces from the 80s and 90s, in dialogue with contemporary pieces by Greek artist Theodore Psychoyos.

Over the last 2 exhibitions downtown+ has represented the work of designers such as:

Charlotte Perriand  
Jean Prouvé  
Ettore Sottsass  
Gaetano Pesce  
Pierre Paulin  
Ron Arad  
Pucci De Rossi  
Gino Sarfatti  
Philippe Starck  
Mathieu Matégot  
Superstudio

Joe Colombo  
Jun'ya Ishigami  
Sori Yanagi  
Tokujin Yoshioka  
Leo Orta  
Bob Wilson  
Tim Wilson  
Zyva Studio & Sam Buckle  
Theodore Psychoyos  
Aleksandr Delev  
Sam Chermayeff



downtown+ trônes  
exposition – 2023

downtown+  
PAD Paris 2024



© Michael Brunn



## Luna Laffanour



Born in 1996, Luna Laffanour grew up in a Franco-Japanese bi-culture thanks to her parents, gallery owner François Laffanour and artist Yumiko Seki. With a personality dictated by her tastes for aesthetics, creativity and the arts, she studied first in England at the University of the Arts London, then at the Camondo School from which she graduated in 2020 in Interior Architecture and Design, before joining ESCP in Management of Cultural Goods and Activities.

In 2021, she joined Galerie Downtown, founded in 1982 by François Laffanour, which has gained worldwide recognition over the decades for its exhibitions of Jean Prouvé, Charlotte Perriand and Pierre Jeanneret.

For Luna, the temptation to continue the Downtown adventure is legitimate, as is the desire to emancipate, distinguish and invent. Luna believes in interdisciplinarity and exchange, a conviction certainly born of her bi-culture.

In 2023, the Galerie Downtown, already contemporary and innovative, reinvents itself with the creation of a new downtown+ department created by Luna Laffanour. She is now at the forefront of this project, taking a fresh look at the gallery's heritage through a cycle of both physical and digital exhibitions, mixing design and contemporary art.



# Contacts

downtown+

[@downtown.plus](#)  
[www.plusdowntown.com](http://www.plusdowntown.com)

## Founder:

— Luna Laffanour

[luna@galeriedowntown.com](mailto:luna@galeriedowntown.com)

+336 99 02 61 98

## Communication:

— Evan Naurais

[evan@galeriedowntown.com](mailto:evan@galeriedowntown.com)

+337 84 93 86 83



## Press:

— Grégoire Marot

233, rue Saint-Honoré,  
75001 +331 42 71 20 46

[gregoire@favoriparis.com](mailto:gregoire@favoriparis.com)

— Amy De Leusse

[amy@favoriparis.com](mailto:amy@favoriparis.com)  
+33 6 34 02 44 82

— Anastasia Sagaydak

[anastasia@favoriparis.com](mailto:anastasia@favoriparis.com)  
+33 7 88 38 27 84