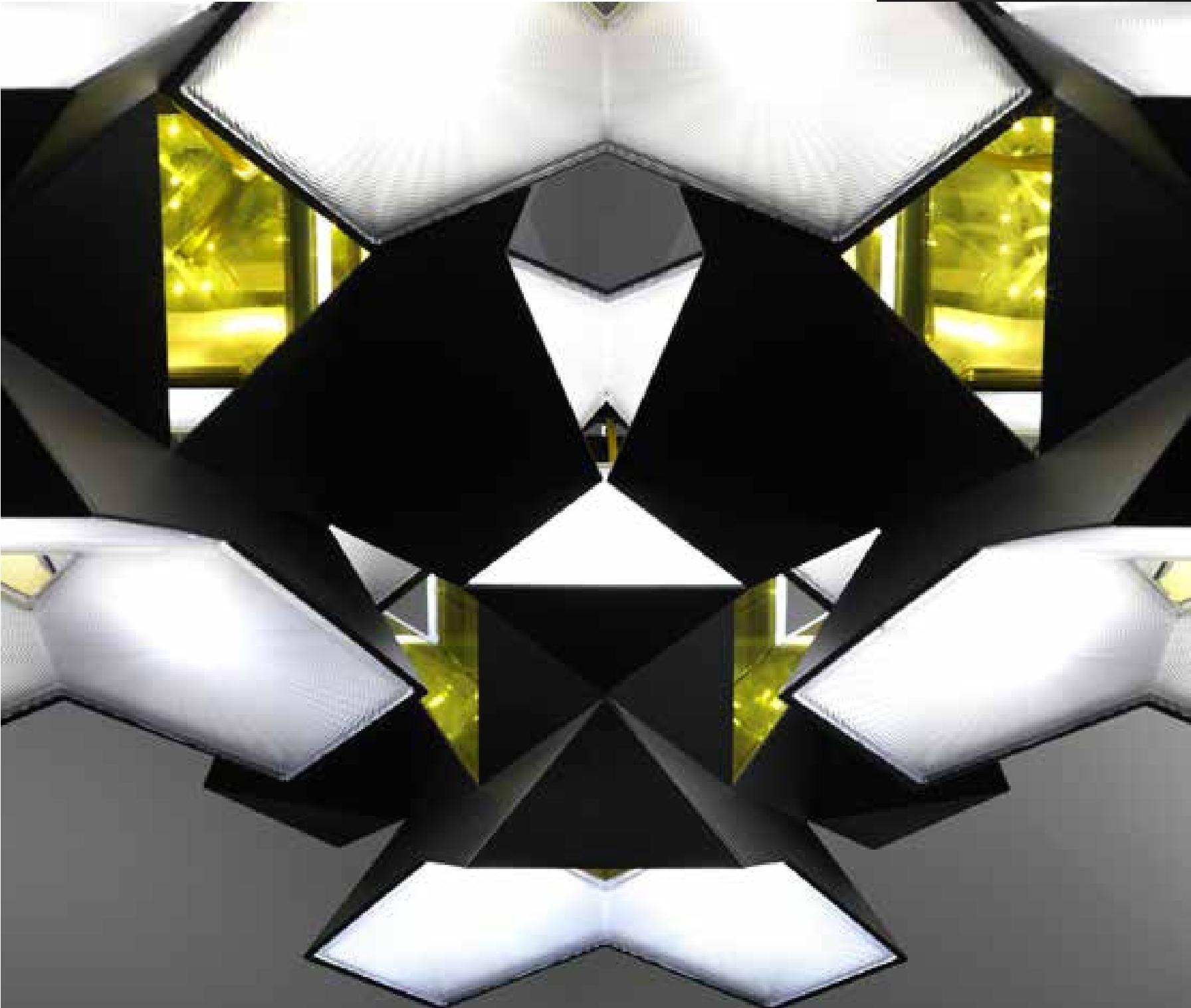


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Starbrick, by Olafur Eliasson. The *Starbrick* is an experiment with light modulation and space, for Zumtobel projects





DUBAI

Eye on Design

This year's *Design Days Dubai* will have the highest number of exhibitors to date, with the fair cultivating recognition and awareness for design in the region

by Iain Akerman

On 16 March, the fourth edition of *Design Days Dubai* kicks off with an international line-up of 44 exhibitors from 20 countries.

Running for five days, the event is the Middle East and South Asia's only collectible design fair and will present works of modern and contemporary design. This year's fair sees 22 returning exhibitors, including Carpenters Workshop Gallery (Paris/London), Southern Guild (Cape Town), Artfactum (Beirut), and Broached Commissions (Melbourne), alongside 11 first-time participants. These include the regional premiere for David Gill Galleries (London) and Gallery FUMI (London), as well as Gallery ALL (Beijing/Los Angeles), Chamber NYC (New York), Galerie Silbereis (Paris), and designer and personality Fiona Barratt-Campbell's Privé Collection (London).

"As the event grows year on year, *Design Days Dubai* continues to cultivate recognition and awareness for design in the region, serving to establish Dubai as a global cultural hub," said Cyril Zammit, director of *Design Days Dubai*. "The 2015 edition will exhibit the world's most diverse collection of exhibitors and designers from 20 countries, and ground-breaking works for the audience to further enhance their experience around the subject of design. The fair offers design enthusiasts the opportunity to not only meet international designers, but also acquire collectible design and enhance collections for private and corporate use."

Held at 'The Venue' in Emaar Boulevard, the fair will showcase desirable, rare and unique design creations, with this year's event representing the highest number of exhibitors to date, with participation from Australia, China, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, the Netherlands, South Africa, and Taiwan, as well as Europe, and the Americas.

The event's support of the Middle East design industry will also see a record number of 16 design studios, galleries, and design professionals from the Emirates and the wider GCC participating. These include the first participation of 1971 (Sharjah), and 19th Century Antiques (Dubai), as well as the launch of Aljoud Lootah Design Studio (Dubai).



TOP: Cyril Zammit, Design Days Dubai Director, photographer: Abdullah Touk

Other highlights of the 2015 programme include a 10th anniversary celebration of Lebanese designer Nada Debs, as well as the regional opening for a new series of vases presented by Wiener Silber Manufactur by Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid, who will also have distinct 'liquid' table works shown by David Gill Galleries (London). Additional Middle Eastern representation can be seen through the participation of Authentique Art Gallery (Dubai), Cities (Dubai & Riyadh), Naqsh Design House (Amman) and Nakkash Gallery (Dubai), together with Tashkeel (Dubai), Fatima bint Mohamed bin Zayed Initiative (Dubai & Abu Dhabi), Faddi Sarriedine (Dubai), and jewellery from Shamsa Alabbar (Dubai).

Dubai in particular is seeking to become a hub for design, innovation and creativity, with design a central pillar of that goal. There is often a clichéd perception of what Middle Eastern design is, but a different perspective has emerged, with contemporary design mixing with regional traditional influences and replacing foreign concepts of Orientalism. ♦

OPPOSITE PAGE: Chamber NYC Studio, job spectacle lamp polished and patinated bronze, brass, aluminium, hand blown glass and LED. Edition of 25, 2014

BELOW: *Twist Bar*, Fadi Sarieddine, flexiwood, solid wood, steel, paint, 2013

