

Marcel Wanders Debuts at Design Days Dubai

BY JANA PERKOVIC | MARCH 02, 2016



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MarcelWanders: One Minute Delft Blue Tulip Vase
(Courtesy Design Days Dubai)

[\(/artists/marcel-wanders-192505\)](/artists/marcel-wanders-192505) **Marcel Wanders** [\(/artists/marcel-wanders-192505\)](/artists/marcel-wanders-192505) will present his Personal Editions collection at Design Days Dubai and give an opening address for the fair on March 14.

Personal Editions, an exclusive collection of limited edition pieces, playfully deconstructs the notion of usefulness and functionality, combining traditional crafts and modern industrial processes in humorous, but stylish pieces – such as One Minute Delft Blue tulip vase, which distributes flowers separately in holding tubes atop a traditional soup tureen, while simultaneously referencing traditional Dutch Delftware porcelain.

“With this collection, in this region specifically, I wanted to include work that celebrates humankind and highlights durability, warmth, and imperfection,” says Wanders. “Handcrafted techniques, and a sense of ornamentation, dominate this collection, and offer more surprise for both myself and those who experience it.”

A designer known for his quest to uplift the human spirit and entertain his audience, Wanders was famously dubbed “Lady Gaga of Design” by The New York Times. Co-founder of the successful brand Moooi (<http://www.moooi.com/>), that brings *avant garde* design to the mass market, Wanders has more than 1700 projects to his name, including Cristofle, Cappellini, Alessi, and Droog. His works are known for their ability to excite, provoke, surprise, and make one laugh (or at least smile) – an armchair made out of suspended macramé, a vase shaped by stuffing latex condoms with boiled eggs, or even a vase modelled by digitally scanning mucus particles that fly out of a sneezing person’s nose (appropriately named “Snotty Vase”).

Wanders’s recent project in the Middle East region includes the soon opening luxury hotel Mondrian Doha (<https://www.morganshotelgroup.com/mondrian/mondrian-doha>), in Qatar.

“Marcel will be introducing some of his most iconic pieces to the Middle East,” said Cyril Zammit, fair director of Design Days Dubai, “and his presence will surely inspire some of our young design talents who will be taking part in the fair’s public program and initiatives.”

The Personal Editions exhibition will include the iconic Golden Knotted Chair, a limited edition of 20 pieces, designed in 2009. The iconic chair, the work that brought Wanders international recognition, has become a much-cited example of how to integrate craft with technology: a hand knotted web of aramid and carbon fiber chord, impregnated with epoxy resin to provide rigidity. The chair today is in the permanent design collections of Museum of Modern Art in New York, and Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

Other pieces to see will be those from the Bon Bon collection (2009), made from rope which has been ‘crocheted’ and reinforced with resin and precious metals; the hand painted “One Minute Delft” collection, a quirky homage to the blue and white Delftware porcelain produced in the Netherlands (2006), and an entirely handmade art edition of the Rijks, Master of the Golden Age hardback book (2016).

Wanders will deliver a keynote address at the launch of the Pop Up Academy, the brainchild of design PR expert [Esra Lemmens](http://www.esralemmens.com/) (<http://www.esralemmens.com/>), a program intended to further design education by organizing courses led by designers.

Click on the slideshow to see more of the exhibits from Personal Editions by [\(/artists/marcel-wanders-192505\)](/artists/marcel-wanders-192505) Marcel Wanders [\(/artists/marcel-wanders-192505\)](/artists/marcel-wanders-192505).

Design Days Dubai will run from March 14 through 18 in Dubai.

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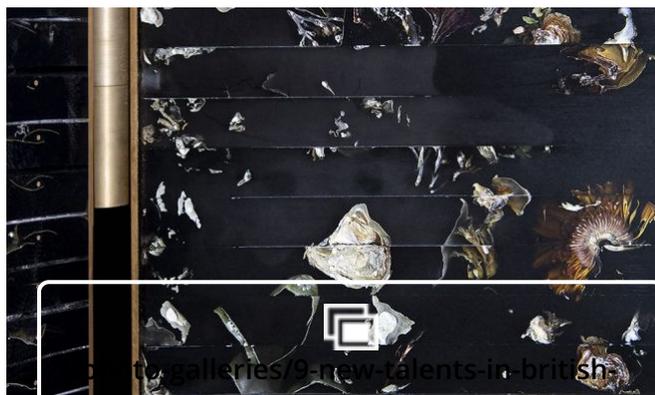
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