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**THE COLLECTOR****Dana Farouki,**  
Chairperson,  
The Abraaj Group  
Art Prize**What does the word "collectible" mean to you?**

I buy what I love when it comes to art and design. I love pieces of every shape, size and colour, but they must be innovative, refreshing and spirited. There are so many inspired pieces that will be on view this year. I wish I could take them all home!

**The piece do you have your eye on?**

I think I would choose an interactive table by Dubai based designer, Fadi Sarieddine. I love the idea that the table can change with different modular elements and configurations. I know for sure that this table could evolve with my ever-changing aesthetic and mood — it's such a good buy!



**WITH THE FIFTH EDITION OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS DESIGN FAIR UPON US, FIVE PROS GIVE US THE LOWDOWN ON THE COLLECTIBLES TO WATCH OUT FOR**

**THE CURATOR:****Cyril Zammit,**  
Fair Director**What does the word "collectible" mean to you?**

Collecting, to me, is a process. I need to admire the piece, understand the thought process behind it, look into its sustainability and figure out finally if my budget will be able to afford it. Following trends or names can either be a big flop or a long wait for the return of your market. The design market can be uncertain at times, so I would rather buy something I can live with.

**Which collectible piece from DDD 2016 do you have your eye on?**

There are some pretty amazing pieces this year. That being said, I'm definitely drawn towards the Dawn Lightseries by Sabine Marcelis presented by Victor Hunt Designart Dealer. The mix of resin and neon light is genius, and the production results are simple yet poetic.

**THE INTERIOR DESIGNER****Pallavi Dean,**  
Design Director at Pallavi  
Dean Interiors**What does the word "collectible" mean to you?**

The logical answer is to always buy a name — Warhol, Ferrari, Patek — because they hold their value. But for me, the emotional side always wins, so I'd just buy something I love and connect with — that guarantees I'll enjoy it forever!

**The one piece you have your eye on?**

Just one? That's unfair ... I loved the intricate, geometric, sculptural pieces by Naqsh Collective last year — so excited they are coming back again! On my 'must-have' list are also the 'Misnad and Uwairyan' rugs by Aljood Lootah, homegrown talent — I love her contemporary take on a traditional weaving techniques.

**THE GALLERIST****Rola Wazni,**  
Director at Carpenters Workshop Gallery**What does the word "collectible" mean to you?**

For me, it's definitely more than the material; it's about the ideas behind the design, the artistic vision, the passion and pain that goes into the creation. Before this, there's also the thunderbolt — that instant emotional connection you feel when you stand in front of the work. You cannot collect a work simply because someone tells you it is a good investment, or a 'must-have'. It's something that only you'll know is right. That's what makes collecting so interesting, because a collection is a reflection of the collector's personality.

**THE TALENT HUNTER:****Robert Thiemann,**  
Eyes on Talent (Paris-based talent agency)**What does the word "collectible" mean to you?**

For me, something is worth collecting if it has more than one story to tell. An object that reveals its message at one glance will become boring after a while, whereas works that trick the eye or make you look twice will have staying power.

**The piece you have your eye on?**

It's probably safer to buy work from an established name, but I prefer to choose from a relatively unknown talent. At Design Days Dubai, I like the Dawn Lights series by Rotterdam-based designer Sabine Marcelis. Each of her lights is made of a neon tube and cast resin, creating beautiful, contemporary sculptures. They play with opacity, and remind me of photographs. A fresh take on decorative lighting.



# WHAT TO EXPECT FROM DESIGN DAYS DUBAI 2016

**Sujata Assomull**

**T**he latest edition of Design Days Dubai opens its doors this Sunday with a VIP preview. The Middle East and South Asia's only collectible design fair, it's held under the Patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, and is the world's most diverse design fair. Last year welcomed more than 13,500 visitors over five days. With this being the fifth year, you can expect it to be bigger and better, with 182 designers from 20 countries participating. These pieces of design are not just unique — they are collectors items, curated under the watchful eye of the fair director, Cyril Zammit. With prices starting at US\$5,000 and going up to US\$500,000, the range at DDD is expansive. Moreover, with international gallerists such as The Carpenter's Gallery, Paris' Galerie Gendras Regnier and Sao Paulo's Coletivo Amor De Madre participating, DDD is attracting global heavyweights in the industry.

There is also large thrust on homegrown talents. Dubai-based multi-disciplined designer Aljoud Lootah launched her first limited edition design collection at Design Days Dubai. Her origami inspired Oru chair and Oru lamp received a lot of attention, both locally and internationally, and two pieces from the collection were acquired for the permanent collection of National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne — making her the first Emirati to have works in the permanent collection of an international institution. Design Days Dubai has established itself as a fair that connoisseurs of design know they must attend. With a public programme that includes talks and workshops sponsored by Dubai Design District, it is also a great forum for aspiring designers and collectors.

We asked five stakeholders from the industry to demystify the world of collectible design:

**Design Days Dubai is to take place from 14th to 18th March at Downtown Dubai**

**THE ARCHITECT:****Viktor Udzenija,**  
Founder at Viktor Udzenija Architecture and Design**What does the word "collectible" mean to you?**

I follow the world of design regularly and try to keep informed on trajectories of certain designers, new technologies and innovations as well as newcomers with great ideas. That said, first and foremost, I rely on my gut feel and the emotion a piece of design manages to evoke in me. I have to fall in love with it. I then look at quality of craftsmanship, use of material, design approach, narrative as well as the provenance/pedigree of the piece and designer.

**The piece you have your eye on this year?**

This year I would go for a piece found at Victor Hunt Designart Dealer. It is a light installation from Commonplace Studio depicting the endless horizon of the sky and ocean. It is a moving image projected on mouth blown glass spheres — a beautiful and calming image that takes me back home. It is a perfect example of how technology can also be romantic and soft. Since I grew up in Croatia, and live in Dubai, I've always had a deep connection with the sea.

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