

Milk

DECORATION



Featuring: Rafael Prieto – Linde Freya Tangelder
Corpus Studio – Zélikha Dinga – Cordelia de Castellane

TRENDS: THE BEST FURNITURE OF 2023
SHOW: STUDIO MUMBAI AT FONDATION CARTIER
GETTING AWAY: ARCADIA, A GREEN PARADISE

Style and inspiration for contemporary tribes





TRIBE

Photo : Clément Pascal

The living room of Rafael Prieto in New York, where a classical style statue rubs shoulders with sculptural "Akari" lamps by Isamu Noguchi and the ceiling light designed by Prieto and Loup Sarion for Marrow. Table, DWR (Design Within Reach). Painting by Pedro Friedeberg.

A DIALOGUE OF STYLES

Mexican designer *Rafael Prieto* is a man of many tastes. To redecorate his loft in a former industrial building in Manhattan, he allowed his emotions to show the way, combining a curated selection of objects and his own designs to create a romantic interior in his image.

TEXT: MURIEL FRANÇOISE – PHOTOS: CLÉMENT PASCAL



Photo : Clément Pascal

Nose sculpture by Loup Sarion in the living room.

Right-hand page: a stone table echoes the loft's cast iron columns and the original moulding from the building in which it is located.



Elegant bars of Casa Bosques chocolate made with cocoa beans from Chiapas sit on the counter at Russ & Daughters, a famous deli on the Lower East Side, waiting to catch the eye of discerning foodies. They were made just a short walk away in the loft of Rafael Prieto, the founder and creative director of TriBeCa-based design practice Savvy. Prieto first had the idea of bringing together work and his personal life in the autumn of 2020,

when he returned to New York after circumstances had kept him away for a long while. *“A lot of people had moved out of the neighbourhood when I arrived. I gradually got to know the place and its inhabitants and began to feel at home. People here often live and work in the same location”*, he explains, before adding: *“A lot of galleries have opened hereabouts over the last two years. Visiting them is a way of escaping from routine and thinking, or just emptying my head and allowing myself to be surprised by what I discover”*.

Apart from a doing a little work in the kitchen where he prepares the chocolate for his niche brand “Casa Bosques”, Prieto has left the rest of this rental property as he found it. With its large windows and cast iron columns, the loft has that typical charm of a 19th century New York industrial building. Its spacious interior and high ceilings are the perfect setting for pieces the designer has collected and his own creations, such as the works that comprised Together Over Time, his debut

Photo : Clément Pascal



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In the living room, a coffee table designed by Prieto, a 1970s sofa, chairs by Gerrit Rietveld, a vintage fabric upholstered wooden chair co-designed with Spoliã founder Valerie Namé Bolaño and a statue inspired by Antiquity. The sculptural linen and powder-coated steel lamps were created by Prieto and his partner Loup Sarion for Marrow.

Photo : Clément Pascal

solo show at Emma Scully Gallery last spring. This poetic juxtaposition of furniture, sculptures and lights includes the Marrow Lamp, a linen and powder-coated steel model designed together with his partner, artist Loup Sarion. Different versions of this sculptural lamp, whose design is inspired by the bones left after a meal, can be seen all around the loft.

Works by iconic contemporary designers (Gerrit Rietveld, Ettore Sottsass, Isamu Noguchi etc) rub shoulders with antique and surrealist sculptures in an avant-garde interior where nothing is calculated. *“It is the reflection of how I have evolved as a result of my experiences and travels. The dialogue between different styles and periods is down to happenstance”*, says the designer who is also known for several interiors in New York and Mexico City. *“If I have never actively*

tried to track down a design piece, preferring to let them come to me, it’s not the same for art. I am always visiting galleries and museums and I read a lot of books on the subject, so I can’t stop myself from setting out to find works that move me”.

Prieto likes to invite his friends for impromptu dinner parties and creative exchanges making this a place where people and ideas are always circulating. The living room area with its low to the ground furniture echoes the traditional Japanese lifestyle that made such an impact on Prieto when he travelled to the Land of the Rising Sun eight years ago. *“Japan is one of my main sources of inspiration with its mix of beauty and modesty almost everywhere you look”*, he says, before adding with a smile: *“I tend to have my head in the clouds and sitting near the floor helps me stay in touch with reality”*. ●

Stones are dotted here and there around the apartment as if they were sculptures. One of them serves as a bedside table. On the right: a space reserved for Studio Savvy with packaging from bars of Casa Bosques chocolate on the wall.

Left-hand page: an installation produced with Kritika Manchanda for the “Together Over Time” exhibition at Emma Scully Gallery.



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