

THE PHOENICIAN OBJECT

OLIVIAKL

16-18 September 2025

OLIVIAKL is pleased to present 'The Phoenician Object', an exhibition of collectible furniture that reinterprets the designers East Mediterranean heritage. Opening on September 16 at design fair, 'House of ICON' in Shoreditch, the objects on display uncover feminine motifs found within familiar forms.



Multidisciplinary studio OLIVIAKL, led by Lebanese Australian architect Olivia Akl, will debut 'The Phoenician Object' at this year's London Design Festival. The collection of collectible art objects uncover feminine motifs within traditional East Mediterranean forms, creating a dialogue between cultural identity and contemporary art.

The furniture collection is a study of Olivia's own cultural identity through familiar forms found across the Levant region. Each art object tells a story, uncovering and celebrating feminine narratives within architectural arches, classical columns, terracotta vessels and everyday rituals.

"The Phoenician Object explores design as a form of art," explains Olivia Akl, founder of OLIVIAKL. "Each piece is designed through narrative, uncovering feminine motifs within Phoenician antiquity."

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The collection features the Venustas Chair, which celebrates the arch not only as the defining feature across East Mediterranean architecture, but inherently female. Just as Vitruvius described the Ionic Order in architecture as feminine, the arch also possess female attributes which is described by the term 'Venustas': the balanced and graceful qualities possessed by the goddess Venus.

Working between London and Melbourne, Olivia Akl's multidisciplinary practice explores the intersection of architecture, art and design. Her work establishes a discourse between architecture, cultural identity and contemporary art.

ABOUT OLIVIAKL

OLIVIAKL is a multidisciplinary design studio working between London and Melbourne, founded by Lebanese Australian architect Olivia Akl. The practice explores design as a form of art across architecture, interiors, and product design, with a focus on cultural identity and contemporary art.

NOTES TO EDITORS

For press enquiries and high-resolution images, please contact Olivia Akl on +44 (0) 7307 906 741 and through email: hello@oliviakl.com