

Lebanese Australian Architect Unveils Collection Celebrating Phoenician Femininity at London Design Festival

OLIVIAKL's 'The Phoenician Object' Reinterprets East Mediterranean Heritage Through Contemporary Collectible Furniture



September 2025 - London, UK: 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 uncovers 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."

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.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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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.