

Milk

DECORATION



Featuring : Suzanne Demisch – Galerie Maniera
Colin King – Ohla Studio – Laurence Leenaert

DESIGN : L'ANNÉE NOÉ DUCHAUFOUR-LAWRANCE
TENDANCES : LES NOUVEAUX CODES DE L'OUTDOOR
FOOD : LE NOMA RÉGALE KYOTO

Style et inspiration pour tribus contemporaines

THE SOUL OF SAUL LEITER

In her East Village apartment, French design gallery Demisch Danant cofounder Suzanne Demisch doesn't trouble herself with sticking to any one style, preferring instead a discerning and eclectic ensemble that creates a dialogue between artists and designers past and present.

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TEXT: MURIEL FRANÇOISE - PHOTOS: KAREL BALAS

Photo : Karel Balas



Saul Leiter

Painter and photographer Saul Leiter was considered a pioneer of colour photography. He settled in New York's East Village in 1952 and loved nothing more than walking the streets around his home, taking photos and capturing the poetry of everyday life.

Right-hand page: Suzanne Demisch, co-founder of New York design gallery Demisch Danant in front of the marble fireplace in her living room, where works by Joan Mitchell, Sheila Hicks and Joseph Beuys rub shoulders.

Seven years ago, Suzanne Demisch was fortunate enough to be able to buy the unit next to her appartement that was previously occupied by the photographer and painter Saul Leiter, she asked her friend François Halard to come and capture the soul of its vacant rooms on film. Leiter, who was famous for his street scenes, lived in this historic East Village building for almost sixty years and the walls still bore the traces of his colourful life. The photos recorded the apartment as it was and were an invaluable prelude to the meticulous restoration work orchestrated by Demisch. They have since been published in Halard's tribute to the pioneering photographer "In memory of Saul Leiter". "This place is steeped in the history of New York. There was a flourishing arts scene in the East Village from the beginning of the 50s to the mid-60s with poets and painters, such as Louise Bourgeois and Robert Rauschenberg. I can still feel this creative effervescence in these walls," says Demisch.

The cofounder (together with Stephane Danant) of Demisch Danant, a gallery specialising in post-war French design, has a passion for things that have come down through the years, objects with a story to tell. She therefore made sure the restoration of the apartment (where she lives today with her son Marlowe) paid tribute to its past. The door and window frames, cupboards and shelves have all been kept in their original state and the colour scheme is the same as when Leiter lived there. The only exception is the living room, whose

dark walls enshroud the décor with an aura of mystery. "When I was on a trip to Pompei, I was struck by the sheer beauty of a black plaster wall. I immediately thought how good it would look in my living room and spent several months looking for the colour and finish that would go best", Demisch explains.

In this interior that bears the traces of its past, she has combined objects from various periods and horizons. "I am interested by the way in which the past and the present can cohabit. I like a space that establishes a dialogue between different styles and perspectives", she observes. The collector lives surrounded by furniture by Pierre Paulin, Maria Pergay, Jacques Dumond, and Frank Lloyd Wright, as well as textile art by Sheila Hicks. Pottery and stones adorn the paint stained fireplaces and windowsills that bear witness to the previous owner. Taken together; all these elements illustrate her insatiable artistic curiosity and pronounced taste for authenticity. "A home should be the reflection of the people who live there, their story and their lifestyle, but also their imperfections and mistakes. It is this unique wealth that gives it all its charm", she insists. If juxtaposing different periods in time has become commonplace, the intention here is to superpose layers of history in an invitation to explore our inner world. ●

From 27 April to 27 May 2023, New York gallery Demisch Danant will be presenting works by the famous French designer Pierre Paulin.

Photographer assistant: Hiroko Balas

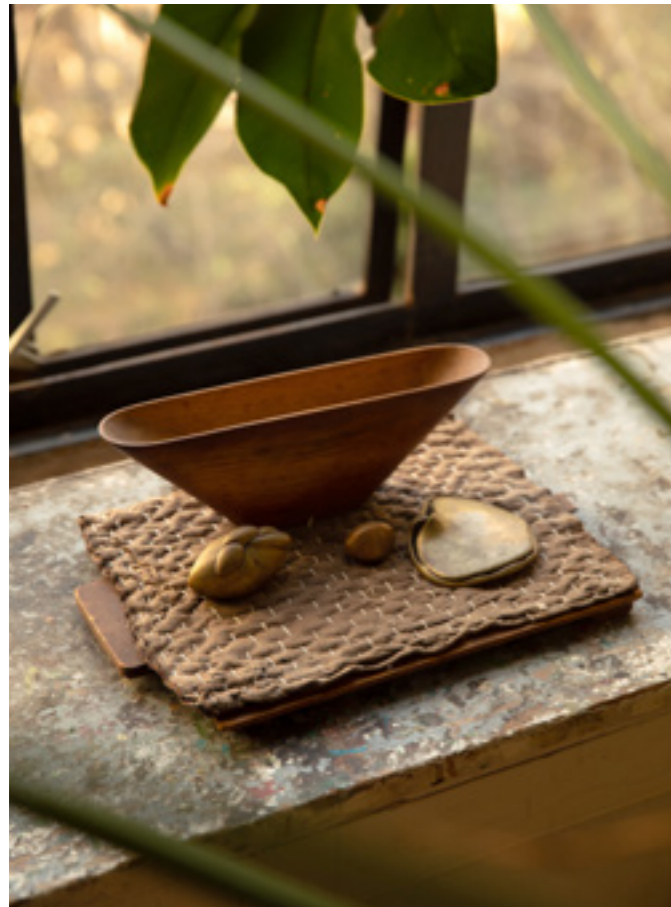


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Photo : Karel Balas



On Saul Leiter's paint-stained windowsill: wooden bowl, Carl Auböck; a Japanese zokin and bronze sculpture by Paul Oudet. Right: on the Hervé Baley side table, textile artwork by Sheila Hicks. Right-hand page: "Blub Blub" sofa by Pierre Paulin and polished steel coffee table by Maria Pergay and Marina Varenne.

Photos : Karel Balas

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The cushions on the daybed in the living room have covers made from Indonesian fabrics. To the left of the fireplace, below a light that once belonged to Saul Leiter, is a chair by François-Xavier Lalanne with a textile artwork by Sheila Hicks. Right-hand page: 19th century American chairs around a long, oak table. "Akari" ceiling light by Isamu Noguchi.



Photo : Karel Balas

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