

# MILAN GUIDE

Nada Debs in her design studio in Beirut.



## Curve Appeal

LEBANESE DESIGNER **NADA DEBS** SHOWS OFF HER BOLD AND COLORFUL MARQUETRY MASTERPIECES.

BY RIMA SUQI

**T**HIS YEAR, MILAN'S DESIGN cognoscenti are buzzing about Nada Debs, a Lebanese designer who is putting a new spin on an age-old Middle Eastern motif and applying it to everything from furniture to fashion. During Salone 2019, the admired Dilmos gallery (*dilmos.it*) drew attention to Debs with "Marquetry Mania," an exhibition of the designer's furniture made using the traditional method of marquetry inlaid in turned wood. "The starting point for us is always, 'How far can we push the craft?'" Debs tells us from her studio in Beirut. "The marquetry strips are one to two millimeters thick and they curve, so we're able to create a line that's curvaceous and voluptuous." And colorful. Debs, who spent her formative years in Kobe, Japan, chose vibrant hues—bubble-gum pink, cobalt, coral, turquoise, and a bright yellow—for the line. She was inspired both by her collection of antique Japanese obis and by runway trends. "I've been noticing a lot of color, especially blocks of hues in unusual combinations," she says. That is why she "decided to go bold" with her newest collection, which includes everything from tables to lights and mirrors. In addition, the fashionable designer was tapped to create a shoe for Fratelli Rossetti; the sandal, in white or red, sports a solid walnut stacked heel inlaid with a mother-of-pearl zigzag pattern. Available during Salone at Fratelli Rossetti's Milan flagship and Beirut boutique, it comes in a limited edition of just 60 pairs. [nadadebs.com](http://nadadebs.com)



**CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT:** Nada Debs's center table, shown at her "Marquetry Mania" exhibition at Milan's Dilmos gallery, and a bowl, mirror, tray, and detail of a side table.