

SURFACE



Designer of the Day: Najla El Zein

Following a solo exhibition at Friedman Benda, the Lebanese designer shares how biomorphic stone works act as a conduit for her inner expressions.

Here, we ask designers to take a selfie and give us an inside look at their life.

Age: 35

Occupation: Artist.

Instagram: @najlaelzein.

Hometown: Beirut.

Studio location: Beirut.

Describe what you make: I tell stories.

The most important thing you've designed to date: Alma, my daughter.

Describe the problem your work solves: My work allows me to express myself.

Describe the project you are working on now: It involves using more stone, more colors, and more textures.

A new or forthcoming project we should know about: My first solo exhibition, Transition, at Friedman Benda, which opened on Feb. 28.

What you absolutely must have in your studio: Daylight.

What you do when you're not working: I get out of town and relax.

Sources of creative envy: Louise Bourgeois, Niki de Saint Phalle, and Meret Oppenheim to name a few.

Concrete or marble? Travertine.

High-rise or townhouse? Lebanese House.

Remember or forget? Remember.

Aliens or ghosts? Ghosts.

Dark or light? Sunlight!



Waddoups, Ryan. "Designer of the Day," *Surface Magazine*, March 5, 2019.



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