

**FRIEDMAN BENDA**  
**515 W 26TH STREET**  
**NEW YORK NY 10001**

**NAJLA EL ZEIN**

- Present Lives and works in Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2010-2019 Lived and worked in Beirut, Lebanon
- 2008-2010 Lived and worked in Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 2007 Graduated from École Camondo, Paris, France with a BA in Product Design and a MA in Interior Architecture and Spatial Design
- 2001 Attended Atelier de Sèvres, Paris, France
- 1985 Moved to Paris, France
- 1983 Born in Beirut, Lebanon

**Public Collections**

Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX  
St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO  
Qatar Museums, Doha, Qatar  
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK

**Award**

- 2024 “Group of five” finalisted for Arab World Design Award, Institut du monde arabe  
“Us, Her, Him” shortlisted for Dezeen Awards  
“Us, Her, Him” wins Dia al-Azzawi Prize for Public Art, Tamayouz Excellence Award

**Select Exhibitions**

- 2024 *Najla El Zein: Opacity, Transparency, and Everything in Between*, Friedman Benda, New York, NY  
*Design Doha Biennial*, Doha, Qatar  
*Enthroned*, curated by Jessica Silverman and Marc Benda, Jessica Silverman Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2023 *Mirror Mirror: Reflections on Design at Chatsworth*, Chatsworth, Derbyshire, UK
- 2022 “Us, Her, Him” public installation, Flag Plaza, Doha  
“Her, Him”, public installation, National Museum of Qatar Roundabout, Doha

- 2019 *Najla El Zein: Transition*, Friedman Benda, New York, NY
- 2018-2019 *Women + Design: New Works*, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX
- 2017 *Jungle Protocol*, House of Today, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2015 *Maison et Objet, Precious*, Elizabeth Leriche, Paris, France  
*Heartland - Territoire d'affects*, Beirut Exhibition Center, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2014 *Naked*, House of Today, Beirut, Lebanon  
*Around the Table*, SMO gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2013 *The Wind Portal*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
- 2012 *Art is the Answer*, Boghossian Foundation, Brussels, Belgium

## Select Press

### 2024

Madlener, Addrian. "Designer Najla El Zein channels personal identity in stone, ceramics, and glass," *NUVO magazine*, September 12, 2024.

Bhoot, Mrinmayee. "Lebanese-French designer Najla El Zein's sculptural work explores material liminality," *StirPad*, July 16, 2024.

"Melting, Jeweled, Chiseled Glass in July's Design Shows," *Curbed*, July 8, 2024.

Barandy, Kat. "At Friedman Benda, Najla El Zein exhibits soft sculptures of stone, ceramic and glass," *Designboom*, June 28, 2024.

Touati, Anissa. "Najla El Zein," *appartamento* issue 33, May 13, 2024.

### 2023

Terrebonne, Jacqueline. "England's Chatsworth House Opens a Dynamic Exhibition with Friedman Benda," *Galerie* magazine, March 24, 2023.

Bertoli, Rosa. "Chatsworth House Design Exhibition Explores Contemporary Design Themes in An Eclectic Setting," *Wallpaper\**, March 17, 2023.

### 2020

Mencarelli, Elisa. "Non è ciò che sembra: la tendenza effetto soft che piace al design," *Architectural Digest Italy*, May 19, 2020.

Donoghue, Katy. "Checking in: Najla El Zein is planting seeds, cooking, and finding bursts of energy," *Whitewall*, May 8, 2020.

### 2019

Dominquez-Siemens, Ana. "Beirut En El Mapa," *ELLE Décor Spain*, November 2019.

Donoghue, Katy. "Najla El Zein's 'Transition'," *Whitewall Magazine*, summer 2019.

Chemaly, Tracy Lynn. "In Conversation with Najla El Zein," *A Magazine*, May/June/July 2019.

Jungerius, Mechteld. "Najla El Zein: Transition," *TL Magazine*, March 20, 2019.

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

Howarth, Dan. "Najla El Zein's 'sensual' furniture goes on show in New York," *Dezeen*, March 4, 2019.

Chemaly, Tracy Lynn. "Post-Pregnancy Contemplation in Najla El Zein's Furniture series," *domus*, March 4, 2019.

Martin, Hannah. "One to Watch: Personal History," *Architectural/Digest*, March 2019.

Shehmir, Ayesha. "9 Transformation of Life," *Harper's Bazaar Interiors Arabia*, Spring 2019.

## **2018**

Quinto, Anne. "Metropolis's Best of 2018: The 6 Objects and Exhibitions That Represented This Year," *Metropolis*, December 24, 2018.

Mason, Brook. "The Dallas Art Museum Invests in Contemporary Design By Women," *Architectural Digest*, October 29, 2018.

Jow, Tiffany. "Design of the Day: A Bench With a Very Surprising Bulge," *Surface*, August 6, 2018.

Musante, Guido. "Through the Looking-Glass," *Interni*, May 2018.

"Spatial Distortions," *Icon Design*, March 2018.

"Welcome to Miami," *Vogue Arabia*, January 28, 2018.

## **2017**

"The Best of New York's Salon Art + Design," *Architectural Digest*, November 10, 2017.

"Inspiring Objects Abound at The Salon Art + Design Fair," *Vogue*, November 9, 2017.

"To watch, Najla El Zein," *Whitewall Magazine*, Summer issue 2017.

"A walk on the wild side," *Selections Magazine*, #40, 2017.

## **2016**

"Najla El Zein, transmettre l'émotion," *L'aventure*, May 2016.

## **2015**

“Come on,” *Sense, Frame Magazine*, May/June 2015.

“House of Today,” *Icon*, March 2015.

“The many women of Najla El Zein,” *Selections #29*, 2015.

Artsy, Artsy Editorial, *8 women who are redefining the Middle East*, March 16, 2015.

## **2014**

Gazsi, Melina. “Sensorial Brushes by Najla El Zein are designed to stimulate the skin,” *Dezeen*, December 18, 2014.

“The Breathing Wall,” *T-r-e-m-o-r-s*, October 17, 2014

“Le Pavillion Des Arts et du Design, un cabinet de curiosités à Paris,” *Le Monde*, April 3, 2014.

“La nouvelle vague Libanaise, Najla El Zein, le design version art,” *Elle Decoration France*, April 24, 2014.

“Les incroyables contes de Najla El Zein,” *Deco Magazine*, 2014.

## **2013**

“A capital lift for designers,” *The Independent*, September 14, 2013.

Viladas, Pilar. “Primer | What Not to Miss at This Year’s London Design Festival,” *T Magazine*, September 14, 2013.

Ghandour Hert, Maya. “The Wind Portal, de Najla El Zein, au V&A museum,” *L’Orient Le Jour*, September 18, 2013.

Andrews, Kate. “The wind portal tries to grasp and emphasize common emotions and senses,” *Dezeen*, September 29, 2013.

Patel, Riya. “LDF top ten installations,” *Frame*, September 29, 2013.

## **2012**

“A spoonful of Najla El Zein,” *Oasis*, Issue 22.

“At a glance,” Brownbook, cover page, Special edition for Design Days Dubai.

Choy, Yoko. “Design Days Dubai 12,” *Wallpaper\**, March 29, 2012.

“Najla El Zein wows Dubai audience with her spoon installation,” *Curve Magazine*, May 2012.

## **2011**

“City guides, Tel Aviv et Beyrouth,” *IDEAT*, September 2011.

