

**DESIGN MIAMI/ ANNOUNCES NEW CURATORIAL DIRECTOR, WAVA CARPENTER**



**Miami, 8 April 2021** - Design Miami/ today announces the appointment of Wava Carpenter as Curatorial Director. Carpenter will replace Aric Chen, following his appointment as General and Artistic Director of Het Nieuwe Instituut in Rotterdam, Netherlands. Carpenter, a specialist in modern and contemporary design, will oversee curation for Design Miami's expanding digital platform, effective immediately, and live events, starting with Design Miami/ December 1-5, 2021.

Chen will maintain a curatorial role with Design Miami/ through November 2021, including the Basel, Switzerland edition of the fair (21-26 September). During his tenure at Design Miami/, Aric Chen curated the celebrated thematic, Elements: Earth and Water, for Basel and Miami fairs in 2019 as well as the 2020 Podium, America(s). Chen brought a unique perspective to his work at Design Miami/ during what has been a transformative time for the business and the world.

Carpenter comes to the role with a strong history with Design Miami/, having previously directed programming, design and commissions from 2006 – 2010 and more recently serving as a Curatorial Advisor. As co-founder of Anava Projects, an agency that supports design for good, Carpenter has also led purpose-driven initiatives at Design Miami/, including *Architects for Beirut* an online sale of architectural drawings and artworks by renowned and rising star architects. Hosted via Design Miami/ Shop, the sale raised over US\$88K for Beirut Urban Lab, an organisation leading on-the ground efforts to restore buildings and public spaces in Beirut following the devastating and historic blast in August 2020 at the city's port.

Wava Carpenter, Curatorial Director of Design Miami/, said *"Returning to Design Miami/ feels like a happy homecoming. The fair has evolved so much since its early days, and I'm looking forward to supporting the continued upward trajectory in my new role as Curatorial Director."*

Jennifer Roberts, CEO of Design Miami/ said *"It feels fitting to welcome one of Design Miami's earliest leaders back to this vital position, helping usher in the next phase of Design Miami/. With her expertise and discerning eye for creativity, innovation and quality, we're looking forward to seeing how Wava helps us shape this next period of growth and expanded reach for Design Miami/."*

Carpenter has an MA in Design History from Parsons School of Design, has held a curatorial fellowship at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York and taught design critical theory at Parsons. Beyond her work with Design Miami/, she has curated and launched design platforms, L'ArcoBaleno, and Pamoto.

### **Notes to Editors/**

#### **About Design Miami/**

Design Miami/ is the global forum for design. Its two fairs and digital marketplace bring together the most influential collectors, gallerists, designers, curators, and critics from around the world in celebration of design culture and commerce. Occurring alongside the Art Basel fairs in Miami, Florida, each December and Basel, Switzerland, each June, Design Miami/ has become the premier venue for collecting, exhibiting, discussing, and creating collectible design. This is mirrored online where Design Miami's mission continues: Design Miami/ Shop is dedicated to celebrating and supporting the global design community, advocating for the artistic value of historical and contemporary design, and providing an exciting yet accessible platform of discovery.

The Design Miami/ Shop marketplace comprises a curated selection of one-of-a-kind, limited-edition, and small-batch-production design objects; namely, historic and contemporary furniture, lighting, and objets d'art offered across a range of price points and culled from the most reputable galleries.

By continuously expanding and enriching its program, Design Miami/ seeks to not only satisfy the demand for a high-end design fair, but also to broaden awareness of modern and contemporary design, fuel the market for collectible design, and provide an exciting yet accessible destination for collectors and enthusiasts alike.

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