

DESIGN | INTERIOR | BY NICK COOPER | PHOTOGRAPHY: ALEX PROBERT

Rena Dumas' classic furniture designs are reissued

Rena Dumas' transformable furniture designs are reissued by The Invisible Collection and K&A Wallpaper* contributing editor Nick Vinton celebrates a resurrection in geometry

f t p in ↗



Osiris table with table and Lucarne table by Rena Dumas, reissued by The Invisible Collection and K&A

Geometric, fresh and modern: Rena Dumas, who opened her studio, Rena Dumas Architecture Interiors (RDAI), in 2011, is perhaps best known for creating the architecture style for Hermès. The partnership began in 2016 and continues just as she does in 2020, in this case.

Although Dumas designed furniture and objects for others, including the Pippa collection of folding furniture for Hermès from 2016, she designed the Osiris collection of tables in 2018 just to benefit a project she intended as an experiment. According to David Moore, who joined RDAI in 2019 and is now artistic director and general manager, Osiris is about exploring geometry. It functioned for the way the furniture could move, changing geometry and setting different stories in their transformation.



Osiris table with table by Rena Dumas. The table can transform into a square table or a table with legs that flip up for extra leg space.

Made up of two complementary halves that can be paired together or left apart, each 'Osiris' table cleverly combines curves and straight lines. The table can flip up to provide a tray table, and with the addition of a central leaf it transforms into a dining table on deck.



The addition of a central leaf turns the Osiris table into a full dining table.

Elegant in the essence of Dumas' work, the right shape, the right materials, executed with precision and simplicity. Both in Osiris and in Pippa, you see her fascination with folding and unfolding.

The reissue also includes the 'Aria' console and Lucarne tables, made up of stacked sections of cubes in brushed oak. The console was commissioned for a private residence in Italy. Dumas designed the Lucarne table too, and reissued the 'Lumiere' rug, a hand-knotted silk carpet with a central yellow sun motif.



Aria console table with table by Rena Dumas, reissued by The Invisible Collection and K&A

I had often admired these pieces when I visited the offices of RDAI in rue de Valenciennes. Another visitor to the studio was Isabelle Dubert, co-founder of digital design platform The Invisible Collection. Dubert proposed to Moore and Julia Cragg, RDAI's managing director, that they re-issue Dumas' furniture, which would fit very well among The Invisible Collection's curated selection of pieces by leading designers, including Pierre Bouvenot and Joseph Beuys.



Reissued Lucarne table by Rena Dumas.

In her time, Dubert had fallen in love with Hermès, but unlike most girls of her age, she was less concerned in the long run. It was more worrying about the money and their architecture that attracted her, she says. In the end, she chose Dumas, a super-independent, super-ambitious woman. Bringing these pieces back to life was a dream, she says. She was thrilled by Moore and Cragg's interest.



Osiris table with table and Lucarne table by Rena Dumas, reissued by The Invisible Collection and K&A

The Invisible Collection is also offering the 'Aria' table, designed by RDAI in 2018, made from 20 pieces of recycled aluminium stacked with a variety, produced by Nuno Editions. For the fourth anniversary issue of Wallpaper* 09 '20 (October 2020), we brought together Isabelle Dubert's team with architects who have inspired their work. Among them 'green couple' from Paris Dumas and Pierre Thureau, then CEO of Hermès. Artist Adam Fosberg and Oliver Chavrus photographed them in Dumas' office, where she sat on a Hermès Lillith chair and in front of her new 'Osiris' table. ■



Lumiere rug by Rena Dumas, reissued by The Invisible Collection and K&A

www.wallpaper.com

© 2020 by The Invisible Collection and K&A

PHOTOGRAPHY: ALEX PROBERT

STYLING: NICK COOPER