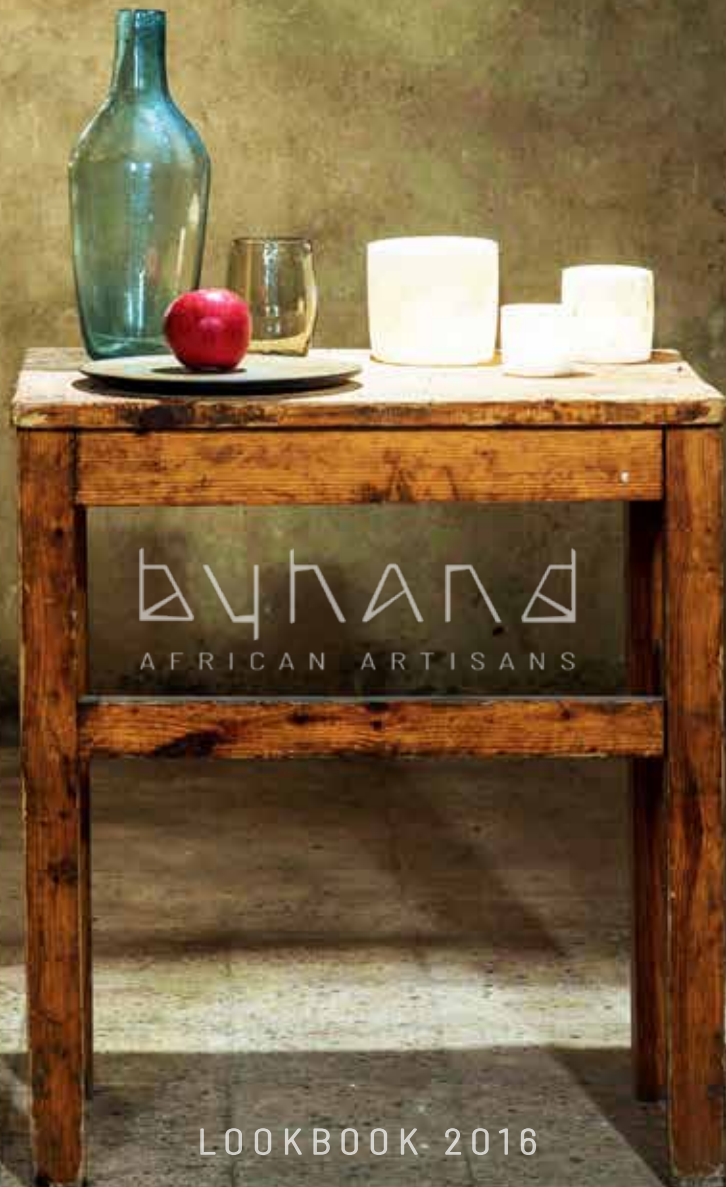


INTERIOR - HANDMADE - MADE TO LAST - CAIRO - STOCK - WILD

THE GAMALEYA



by hand
AFRICAN ARTISANS

LOOKBOOK 2016



Gamaleya Workshops and Byhand African Artisans

Where the sun-baked alleys of Cairo's Gamaleya workshop district meet the quiet rhythm of Scandinavian design, Byhand African Artisans finds its living heart. In these modest spaces, alive with the hum of looms, the scrape of chisels on alabaster, and the earthy scent of natural dyes, artisans transform raw fragments of the Nile Valley—limestone, brass, woven fibers—into objects that carry both ancient memory and timeless utility. This is no sterile studio, but a crossroads of hands: generations of craft knowledge meeting our ethos of restraint, where each piece emerges from patient dialogue, not mass production.

Gamaleya's workshops, tucked amid the city's pulse, are where landscape becomes tangible. Dust from nearby quarries settles on workbenches, river reeds are split for baskets, and soft stone yields to tools honed over lifetimes. Here, Byhand African Artisans listens and collaborates, guiding without imposing—infusing subtle forms that let the material's inherent poetry shine. A low stone vessel, its curve echoing desert dunes, or a handwoven kilim in muted ochres, finds its origin in this fusion: Egyptian mastery wedded to Nordic clarity, creating interiors that feel like extensions of the earth itself.

The merging is philosophical, too—a bridge across cultures where utility meets spirit. In Gabalai, making is ritual: a young apprentice learns beside elders, ensuring traditions endure amid modern haste. We honor this by designing for longevity, selecting only what sustains both maker and land. The result? Pieces that transcend décor—lanterns casting Cairo's golden light into Copenhagen homes, trays holding quiet gatherings, rugs grounding spaces with the texture of shared stories.

Sustainability weaves through every step: local sourcing, fair wages, minimal waste, so that Gamaleya's craft supports families and ecosystems alike. This partnership proves that true design arises not from invention alone, but from convergence—where a workshop's raw energy meets thoughtful curation, birthing objects alive with purpose. In their presence, rooms breathe deeper, walls dissolve into horizons, and the handmade becomes a vital thread linking artisan hands to the homes they quietly transform.



Foundation

In collaboration with UNHCR and MADE51, we are expanding our commitment to empowering artisans through meaningful, dignified work. Building on our long-standing partnerships with skilled craftspeople across Africa, we are now welcoming talented refugee artisans into our creative network.

Together, we combine traditional craftsmanship and human resilience—supporting livelihoods, preserving cultural heritage, and creating products that carry powerful stories of hope, skill, and connection across borders.











byhand
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