

# NISKALA

Forms of the Unseen

pierre charrié x cushcush gallery

press kit



# Niskala : Forms Of The Unseen

An homage to Bali's vibrant spirituality and mystique, the "Niskala: Forms of the Unseen" collection was created by French designer Pierre Charrié, as output of the 2023 Artist Designer In Residence (ADIR) programme initiated by CushCush Gallery in Bali, with the generous support of the Institut Français, the French Embassy in Indonesia, the Institut Français Indonésie and CushCush. The residency opens its doors to talented French designers to propose a contemporary reinterpretation of the richness of Balinese culture and craftsmanship.

« This residency is an intense and comprehensive experience. It offers an immersion into numerous Balinese artistic practices that complement each other and enrich the field of design, such as dance, painting, architecture or theater. The objects created by Pierre Charrié are a very personal quintessence of the different influences he discovered during his 5 weeks spent in the country.»

—Charlotte Esnou, Cultural Attachée,  
French Embassy in Indonesia

# Artist Designer In Residence (ADIR) : French design meets Balinese crafts

Conceived as a 5-week immersive residency, ADIR allows a French designer to explore Bali's unique culture in depth, its abundant natural materials and rich traditional crafts and know-how in direct dialogue with Balinese artisans.

The residency culminates with the creation of a collection of objects to be showcased at design events in France and Indonesia.



During his residency, Pierre Charrié experienced the diversity of Balinese landscapes, architecture, arts and crafts, visiting major centers of traditional culture and crafts traditions. Whether witnessing colorful ceremonies and performances or visiting dramatic temples, the designer was impressed by the omnipresence of myths and belief in Balinese everyday life and how the island's unique crafts and art forms are deeply rooted in spirituality and rituals.

# “Niskala: Forms Of The Unseen” Collection

Inspired by Bali’s vibrant artistic and spiritual practices, the “Niskala: Forms of the Unseen” collection takes us on a journey to a mysterious world, where mythical creatures seem to incarnate into beautifully handcrafted objects and furniture of collectible design.

The Balinese believe in Niskala, the “unseen world” home to the spirits, superimposed on the human realm and invisible to the eyes of men. Balinese belief, a unique blend of Hindu religion, ancestor worship and animism, is deeply imbued in all aspects of everyday life. The arts and craftsmanship are especially revered as a way to pay homage to the gods and play an essential part in the multitude of ceremonies and rituals held on the island. The collection celebrates this vibrant spirituality, expressed through the skill of Balinese artists and artisans, their unique ability to pour their soul into their art and craft and breathe life into the objects they create.

The Balinese concept of Rwa Bhineda, known as the balance between opposites and symbolized by poleng, the emblematic black and white checkered cloth omnipresent on the island, permeates the entire collection. Black plays off against white, light against shadow, creating a vibrant play of contrasts and reflecting the duality between the Seen and the Unseen.

Niskala is conceived as a triptyque, each object of the collection highlighting a different know-how and local material, each embodying specific characteristics to create distinctive pieces of furniture both functional and expressive. The collection seems to unfold like a story in three chapters, introducing different characters while showcasing the versatility of Balinese craftsmanship expressed through the prism of design.



# Batuan Table

**A sculptural piece, the Batuan table pays homage to Bali's highly detailed sense of ornamentation, with painted decorations enhancing the expressiveness of volumes.**



**A striking gradation of black and white sinuous lines characteristic of the traditional Batuan painting style is applied by the expert hand of Batuan artist Made Griyawan on carved wooden surfaces creating a harmonious balance between ancient know-how and modern visual aesthetics.**

# Kayon Screen

The Kayon screen is an ode to the Balinese art of wayang kulit (shadow puppetry), an ancient form of storytelling.



The kayon (“Tree of Life”), an abstract representation of the universe, is an essential figure used by the puppeteer to open and close each performance. The exquisite and intricate patterns of the kayon, expertly carved by puppet master I Ketut Sudiana’s team of artisans into processed cowhide, highlight the almost translucent quality of the material to create an ethereal art piece.

# Rambut Stools

The Rambut stools are a fun duo of opposites made of plant fibers, with the black ijuk stool and its white gebang partner, referencing the Balinese philosophy of Rwa Bhineda.



Meaning “hair” in Indonesian, Rambut reflects its own lively appearance, with a distinct take on the use of the black ijuk inspired by Balinese temple thatched roofs, and the white gebang, a playful tribute to the vibrant dance and theater costumes of Balinese mythical creatures and divinities. The complementary use of bamboo and rope knot-tying, bring a spontaneous finish to this must love pair.

## Invited Designer: Pierre Charrié

A graduate from Fine Arts and from the École Nationale Supérieure de Création Industrielle (ENSCI- Les Ateliers), Pierre Charrié is fascinated by the sensory dimension of everyday objects and explores how materials, sounds or gestures can create new interactions and transcend the ordinary. His research and experimentations with the sound quality of objects have earned him recognition, with some of his work included in the permanent collection of the National Center of Plastic Arts (CNAP).



A polyvalent designer, he works with a wide range of natural materials, including wood and ceramic, as well as more rarely used feathers or mother-of-pearl, which he marries with both innovative and ancestral techniques used by artisans he encounters. His unique sensory approach to design and his refined creations have established him as one of the most promising young award-winning French designers.

# Cushcush: Designing With Local Craftsmanship

**CushCush is an award-winning boutique design studio and workshop founded in 2002 by interior designer Suriawati Qiu and her partner architect Jindee Chua. CushCush works with local artisans and traditional techniques and crafts from Bali and Indonesia, using indigenous natural materials to craft contemporary design furnishings for international hospitality projects and private residences.**

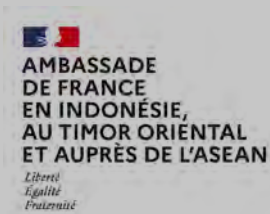
In 2016, they co-founded CushCush Gallery (CCG), a platform dedicated to art, design and creative encounters, to foster interdisciplinary collaborations at the crossroads of art, design and traditional crafts.

**Conceived as a multi-functional space, CCG organizes exhibitions, residencies, workshops and collaborations throughout the year and facilitates exchanges between international and local artists as well as creative communities.**

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# Practical Informations And Contact

## Paris Design Week Factory

Galerie Joseph  
7, rue Froissart, 75003, Paris


From 5- 9 September 2024  
Exhibition opening night: 7 September 2024, 19:30

## Opening hours

Thursday 5th- Sunday 8th September: 11:00-19:00  
Monday 9th September: 11:00-18:00

**For more information or for appointments,  
please contact:**


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