

# ROCKING VERSAILLES

FEATURE: NINA LISTER. PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF LIANA YAROSLAVSKY

A Paris-based designer creates extraordinary coffee tables from Plexiglas and lavish chandeliers. *Trendesign* talked to Liana Yaroslavsky about her innovative work.



*The designer, Liana Yaroslavsky, working with a chandelier*

When she failed to find a coffee table she liked for her home in 2009, Liana Yaroslavsky was inspired to go one better and design her own. She was inspired to incorporate lavish chandeliers into her designs after buying a portfolio of 19<sup>th</sup> century watercolours which prompted her to visit Murano. There, she fell in love with a Murano chandelier that she decided to place on the ground, rather than suspended from the ceiling.

Her Plexiglas coffee table containing chandeliers, which is more akin to a functional art installation, was born. "I took the chandelier, turned it upside down, spread the branches out like flowers and inserted the whole thing into a Plexiglas cube. That was my first creation."

This was also her first foray into furniture design, having studied at the Parsons School of Design in New York and then worked as a graphic designer. Now based in Paris, Liana describes her style as "a mixture of Versailles and Rock and Roll". She adds: "I look everywhere for inspiration; past, present and future. Everything inspires me but what I find interesting is the energy created when you combine old and new objects that do not necessarily belong together, then you have a tension and a new story is born."

Liana works a great deal with light, mirrors, glass and Plexiglas and her aim is to create custom conversation pieces. "The transparency and reflection fascinate me," she says.



*One has the impression that the chandelier is floating towards the bottom of the Plexiglas container*

## DECADENCE

The *Decadence* chandelier coffee table, framed in Plexiglas, is Liana's most opulent and luxurious design. A Napoleon III tapestry, with its serpentine Arabesque patterns, lines the bottom of the Plexiglas case that forms the frame of the coffee table, reinforced with steel.

Sitting above the tapestry is an 18<sup>th</sup> century Swedish chandelier, its crystal braiding rising above the table with a gold-leafed crown, forming a magnificent centrepiece.

"One has the impression that it is floating towards the bottom and yet, mysteriously being pulled upwards at the same time," says Liana. "The Arabesques intermingle *ton sur ton* within the tapestry at its foot. The result is an image of luxury and opulence."



*The chandelier sits above a Napoleon III tapestry with Arabesque design*



*The chandelier bursts through the top of the Plexiglas coffee table frame, forming a centrepiece*



*The 18<sup>th</sup> century Swedish chandelier features crystal braiding with a gold-leafed crown*



The top of the chandelier rests on the Plexiglas top of the coffee table frame



## LE MAURE DE VENISE

Similarly opulent in style, but darker in character, is the limited-edition *Le Maure de Venise* coffee table, featuring a crystal Murano chandelier by Archimède Seguso and a black mirror set within a Plexiglas box and reinforced with steel.

The black mirror occupies the base of the Plexiglas box. "The black branches of the Murano chandelier shoot out under the Plexiglas top and lean up against its naked body," says Liana. Black crystal flowers are scattered on the bottom.

Liana says the Shakespeare play, *Othello*, gave her the inspiration for this table. "Othello, insanely jealous, dreams of killing his Desdemona," she says. "This is the Moor; he is love and death in Venice. Love is a dream that drives men to the point of no return."

*Le Maure de Venise* is inspired by Shakespeare's play, *Othello*, and features a Murano chandelier by Archimède Seguso





The balls of Murano blown glass appear to float above the Versailles parquet floor of the coffee table frame



“BALLS OF MURANO BLOWN GLASS FLOAT ABOVE THE FLOOR, FOREVER CAPTURING THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF AIR”

## O2 VARIATIONS

Liana's most playful design is *O2 Variations*, which features balls of Murano blown glass which appear to float above a Versailles parquet dotted with LED lights in a Plexiglass case reinforced with steel.

Liana says: “Balls of Murano blown glass float above the floor, forever capturing the unbearable lightness of air. They are like little planets of perfect emptiness. Perhaps these balls of glass, with neither age, nor destiny, are echoes of the soap bubbles I blew as a child – all those balls and balloons that we madly threw in the air as if they would never descend.”

Liana creates designs for interior decorators and private clients all over the world. Her coffee tables can be found at Twentieth Gallery in Los Angeles, US, or online at [Lianayar.com](http://Lianayar.com).



*The playful O2  
Variations coffee table*



*"Like planets of perfect emptiness", the glass balls which feature inside the O2 Variations coffee table*