

ARCHITECTURE)

Galerie

ESTATE/) SUTHERLAND

introducing the Neo-Classic Lounge Chair

INTERIORS

STYLE + DESIGN

REAL ESTATE

CREATIVE MINDS



ART)

[HTTPS://WWW.GALERIEMAGAZINE.COM/CATEGORY/HOME-ARCHITECTURE/](https://www.galeriemagazine.com/category/home-architecture/)

[HTTPS://WWW.GALERIEMAGAZINE.COM/CATEGORY/DESIGN/](https://www.galeriemagazine.com/category/design/)

[HTTPS://WWW.GALERIEMAGAZINE.COM/CATEGORY/REAL-ESTATE/](https://www.galeriemagazine.com/category/real-estate/)

[HTTPS://WWW.GALERIEMAGAZINE.COM/CREATIVEMINDS/](https://www.galeriemagazine.com/creative-minds/)

ARCHITECTURE/)

ESTATE/)



SUTHER

luxury at eve

introducing the Neo-Classic lounge chair sutherlandfurniture.com



Ballet Austin performs "Snow White," part of *Grimm Tales*. Artist Natalie Frank created the backdrop.

Photo: A.M. Bloodgood

Natalie Frank Lends Her Dark Feminist Vision to a New Production of Ballet Austin

Original Grimm Brothers tales are brought to life in this ballet debut that showcases female power

by ABBY RONNER ([HTTPS://WWW.GALERIEMAGAZINE.COM/AUTHOR/ABBYRONNER/](https://www.galeriemagazine.com/author/abbyronner/))
APRIL 2, 2019

[f](http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=https://www.galeriemagazine.com/natalie-frank-lends-her-dark-feminist-vision-to-a-new-production-of-ballet-austin/) (<http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=https://www.galeriemagazine.com/natalie-frank-lends-her-dark-feminist-vision-to-a-new-production-of-ballet-austin/>) [t](https://twitter.com/intent/tweet/?text=%20Natalie+Frank+Lends+Her+Dark+Feminist+Vision+to+a+New+Production+of+Ballet+Austin%20-%20https%3A%2F%2Fwww.galeriemagazine.com%2Fnatalie-frank-lends-her-dark-feminist-vision-to-a-new-) (<https://twitter.com/intent/tweet/?text=%20Natalie+Frank+Lends+Her+Dark+Feminist+Vision+to+a+New+Production+of+Ballet+Austin%20-%20https%3A%2F%2Fwww.galeriemagazine.com%2Fnatalie-frank-lends-her-dark-feminist-vision-to-a-new->)

ARCHITECTURE

subject=Natalie Frank Lends Her Dark Feminist Vision to a New Production of Ballet Austin&body=Read the article here https://www.galeriemagazine.com/natalie-frank-lends-her-dark-feminist-vision-to-a-new-production-of-ballet-austin/

ESTATE/)

Artist Natalie Frank is most well-known for a series of portraits she did subverting the happily-ever-after Grimm Brothers tales in favor of their more sinister roots and an emphasis on female power. In *Grimm Tales*, a collaboration with Ballet Austin that debuted this past weekend, Frank's vision is given new life in the sets and costumes in this production, which reimagines three Grimm Brothers fairy tales through a feminist lens.

With Frank's drawings as a backdrop, the *Grimm Tales* ballet combines the choreography of Stephen Mills, Ballet Austin's artistic director, the music of composer Graham Reynolds, who has scored many of Richard Linklater's films (and collaborated with Mills on previous shows); and the costume design of Tony Award-nominated and New York-based costume designer Constance Hoffman, to achieve a captivating, and at times disturbing, experience.



Ballet Austin performs "The Juniper Tree," part of *Grimm Tales*. Artist Natalie Frank created the backdrop. Photo: A.M. Bloodgood

"I have always dreamed of working on visuals for a ballet, and, specifically, a Ring cycle," Frank tells *Galerie*. "Wagner has always compelled such visual imagery in my mind—all-encompassing stories and worlds are and always have been of great interest to me. The entire production of *Grimm* aims to capture this, and I think it does! It feels like it sprang from my head, and I credit my collaborators for this generosity—the generosity of the process was the most staggering part of all of this."

The first tale in the performance, "The Frog King," depicts the true Grimm Brothers ending, which is often overlooked in favor of the more popular—and palatable—ending where the princess kisses the frog to break the spell, transforming him into a prince. In Frank's version (as in the original Grimms'), the princess, disgusted by the frog, smashes it against a wall.

In the performance, we watch as an animation of one of Frank's drawings, the splattered body of a frog, slides down the white backdrop. Similarly, in "Snow White," Frank does away with the prince entirely, and the tale ends with Snow White fiercely battling her stepmother, the evil queen. But Mills and Frank save the darkest tale for last.



Ballet Austin performs "Snow White," part of *Grimm Tales*. Artist Natalie Frank created the backdrop. Photo: A.M. Bloodgood

In the most evocative scene of "Juniper Tree," a boy who has been decapitated by his wicked stepmother, is wheeled around the stage wildly on a butcher block as the stepmother chops him up with two massive butcher

ARCHITECTURE) a rehearsal). There were gasps from the audience as Frank's animated drawing of a dismembered boy tumbles down the screen behind the dancers.

ESTATE/)

It is difficult to render such a multimedia collaboration without one element overshadowing the other, particularly when combining dance and visual art. One of the many challenges Frank and Mills faced in the conception of this work was finding a balance within this liminal space. What they created was a stunning dialogue between the dancers and Frank's paintings as they floated and panned behind them, together providing a more holistic understanding of the fairy tale as it unfolded.

Recommended: The Best Art & Design Fairs this April
(<https://www.galeriemagazine.com/best-art-design-fairs-biennials-april-2019-2/>)

Even the music—wild and discordant in darker moments yet ringing more traditional when the story warranted—and the costumes, each hand-painted by Jeff Fender Studio, a custom fabric painter whose work has appeared on Broadway for decades, coalesced in a beautifully subtle way. Each element of the show could stand alone as a success on its own, and yet all melded seamlessly to create an evocative, startling, sinister rendition of the familiar tales we all thought we knew.



Ballet Austin performs "Snow White," part of *Grimm Tales*. Artist Natalie Frank created the backdrop.
Photo: A.M. Bloodgood

In her career thus far, this kind of daring is not unfamiliar territory for Frank. Her work often deals with women, storytelling, and the body. "Of course," she says, "sex and violence come with this." The *Grimm Tales* ballet offered Frank a chance to explore these themes from new perspectives and to see her own work in a more expansive way. "This has all taught me about a different type of drawing and storytelling," she explains, "one for the stage that is viewable and understood almost instantaneously, but one with the capacity to allow unfolding through both movement and imagery."

Frank lacks depth perception, a condition she shares with other artists such as Pablo Picasso and Rembrandt. Because of this, she says, "I have a difficult time tracking in real time where forms are in space. There is a beautiful fluidity and compositional aspect to watching this ballet, especially as the three tales overlap in movement and storytelling."

While Frank and Mills explore other venues for staging the ballet in the future, Frank is currently working on a book with Jack Zipes about the 17th-century literary "fairy teller," as Frank referred to her, Madame D'Aulnoy, whose feminist narratives, such as *Cinderella*, were ahead of their time and who also coined the term "fairy tale." A selection of these drawings will be shown at Frieze in May with Frank's new gallery, Salon 94.

[f](https://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=https://www.galeriemagazine.com/natalie-frank-lends-her-dark-feminist-vision-to-a-new-production-of-ballet-austin/) (<https://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=https://www.galeriemagazine.com/natalie-frank-lends-her-dark-feminist-vision-to-a-new-production-of-ballet-austin/>) [t](https://twitter.com/intent/tweet/?text=%20Natalie+Frank+Lends+Her+Dark+Feminist+Vision+to+a+New+Production+of+Ballet+Austin%20-%20https%3A%2F%2Fwww.galeriemagazine.com%2Fnatalie-frank-lends-her-dark-feminist-vision-to-a-new-production-of-ballet-austin%2F) (<https://twitter.com/intent/tweet/?text=%20Natalie+Frank+Lends+Her+Dark+Feminist+Vision+to+a+New+Production+of+Ballet+Austin%20-%20https%3A%2F%2Fwww.galeriemagazine.com%2Fnatalie-frank-lends-her-dark-feminist-vision-to-a-new-production-of-ballet-austin%2F>) [e](mailto:?subject=Natalie+Frank+Lends+Her+Dark+Feminist+Vision+to+a+New+Production+of+Ballet+Austin&body=Read+the+article+here+https://www.galeriemagazine.com/natalie-frank-lends-her-dark-feminist-vision-to-a-new-production-of-ballet-austin/) ([mailto:?subject=Natalie Frank Lends Her Dark Feminist Vision to a New Production of Ballet Austin&body=Read the article here https://www.galeriemagazine.com/natalie-frank-lends-her-dark-feminist-vision-to-a-new-production-of-ballet-austin/](mailto:?subject=Natalie+Frank+Lends+Her+Dark+Feminist+Vision+to+a+New+Production+of+Ballet+Austin&body=Read+the+article+here+https://www.galeriemagazine.com/natalie-frank-lends-her-dark-feminist-vision-to-a-new-production-of-ballet-austin/))

YOU MIGHT LIKE...

(https://www.galeriemagazine.com/category/art/)



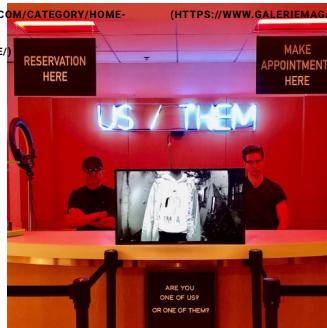
(https://www.galeriemagazine.com/b-wurtz-public-art-fund/)

ART + CULTURE

(https://www.galeriemagazine.com/category/art/)

How Artist B. Wurtz Found His Groove with This Playful Public Commission (https://www.galeriemagazine.com/b-wurtz-public-art-fund/)

(https://www.galeriemagazine.com/category/home-architecture/)



(https://www.galeriemagazine.com/jonathan-paul-performance-us-them-spring-break/)

ART + CULTURE

(https://www.galeriemagazine.com/category/art/)

Inside the Performance That Is Making People Cry at Spring/Break Art Show (https://www.galeriemagazine.com/jonathan-paul-performance-us-them-spring-break/)

(https://www.galeriemagazine.com/category/design/)



(https://www.galeriemagazine.com/christies-loic-gouzer-announces-departure/)

ART + CULTURE

(https://www.galeriemagazine.com/category/art/)

Christie's Rainmaker Loic Gouzer Announces Surprising Departure (https://www.galeriemagazine.com/christies-loic-gouzer-announces-departure/)

(https://www.galeriemagazine.com/category/real-estate/)



(https://www.galeriemagazine.com/4-must-visit-art-hotels/)

DESTINATIONS

(https://www.galeriemagazine.com/category/destinations/)

These 4 Must-Visit Hotels Take Art to the Next Level (https://www.galeriemagazine.com/4-must-visit-art-hotels/)

SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Sign up to receive the best in art, design, and culture from *Galerie*

Enter email >



The limited-edition Second Skin vessels the Haas Brothers created for L'Objet, shown in Poison Dart Frog, Leopard, Multi-Monster, Scratched Lizard, and Gold Horn Tiger. Photo: Courtesy of L'Objet

The Haas Brothers Create an Otherworldly Collection with L'Objet

The L'Objet founder and the artists share the intimate details behind their expansive collaboration of decorative accents and dinnerware

by JILL SIERACKI (https://www.galeriemagazine.com/author/jill/)

APRIL 2, 2019

Facebook share link: (http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=https://www.galeriemagazine.com/the-haas-brothers-create-an-otherworldly-collection-with-lobjet/)
Twitter share link: (https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?text=%20The+Haas+Brothers+Create+an+Otherworldly+Collection+with+L%E2%80%99Objet%20https%3A%2F%2Fwww.galeriemagazine.com%2Fthe-haas-brothers-create-an-otherworldly-collection-with-lobjet%2F)
Email link: (mailto:?subject=The Haas Brothers

ARCHITECTURE <https://www.galeriemagazine.com/the-haas-brothers-create-an-otherworldy-collection-with-lobject/>

ESTATE/)

At L'Objet's meticulously designed showrooms, gilded place settings are artfully displayed alongside whimsical decorative objects, like birdcage candles, gecko magnifying glasses, or pagoda-shaped napkin rings. However, the latest introduction may be the 15-year-old luxury brand's most fanciful array—a new collection of Wild Things from Simon and Nikolai Haas that translates the artists' sculptural "monsters" into vessels, serving ware, lighting, and textiles that made its debut at L'Objet's Bleecker Street boutique in New York.



L'Objet Haas Simon Leg table lamp. Photo: Courtesy of L'Objet

"The brothers and I work in very different ways, so it was incredible to see how these two methodologies came together," says L'Objet founder and creative director Elad Yifrach, who first met the Haas Brothers three years ago at a Design Miami event during Art Basel. "They are very fantasy-driven, and I tend to focus a lot on the design function of my pieces. With that being said, the three of us knew we wanted to create a collection that was not only beautiful but also would change the way people relate to objects that often go overlooked in one's home. Having them there to infuse fantasy into my work was not only inspiring, it was fun."



Much of the Haas Brothers collection—including this Monster incense burner—was inspired by the otherworldly landscape of Joshua Tree National Park. Photo: Courtesy of L'Objet

Ranging from textural, like the pebbled Haas Gila Monster vases, to playful, such as the golden-footed Haas Simon Leg table lamp, the collection appeals to all types of design connoisseurs. Many of the works are available in limited editions, such as the 12 various colorways of the collection's unicorn-horned Second Skin vessels. "The more we dreamed of this fantasy, the more ideas came about," says Yifrach. "Those 12 hand-painted pieces were born from

order to survive the harsh conditions of the desert. We then created 12 incredibly intricate patterns that were hand-painted on the vessels. Those are now our most sought-after collectible pieces."

ESTATE/)



The Haas Lynda box comes with four plates stored inside; it's limited to just 500 pieces. Photo: Courtesy of L'Objet

Another favorite of both the artists and L'Objet founder is the gold Haas Lynda box and plates, of which only 500 are available. "I'm so happy with its sculptural quality and its functionality," says Nikolai. "Its use is vague until you open it. Then it is a real experience using it as a plate holder. I feel like it's the piece that best satisfies the artistic and functional concepts of the collection."

Recommended: *Drew Barrymore Unveils Her Debut Home Collection* (https://www.galeriemagazine.com/drew-barrymore-debuts-home-collection/)

Yet even in their limited quantities, the L'Objet offerings are still a more attainable array than a Haas Brothers sculpture, many of which are currently on display at Miami's Baas Museum in the exhibition "Fergully," (https://www.galeriemagazine.com/haas-brothers-fergully-miami/) on view through April 21. But pleasing a consumer audience versus a collector was a challenge unique to the artist duo. "At first I thought that this meant we need to be more conservative, which isn't really how we operate," says Nikolai. "However, after working through the process for a couple months with L'Objet, I realized that these pieces had to be more universal and not more conservative. Designing something to be completely different and unusual but at the same time universal and consumable is really difficult. It was a fun puzzle to solve and took a ton of effort, but ultimately I'm really happy with how we tackled it together."



The porcelain Haas Lazy Susan catchall comes in black or white with 24K gold accents. Photo: Courtesy of L'Objet

ARCHITECTURE)

ESTATE/)

—while unique are still very much in line with L'Objet's more traditional offerings and demonstrate a true melding of minds. "It is definitely a departure from what I've previously done for L'Objet, but a lot of the textures in L'Objet Haas Brothers came from existing pieces from prior collections," says Yifrach. "The scales of the Lazy Susan, for instance, are based on our Aegean dinnerware. The Mojave Desert dinnerware is essentially a deconstructed version of our Perlee pattern. In this way, I definitely think that L'Objet Haas Brothers can hold its own among our other pieces."

Subscribe (<https://www.pubservice.com/S0/Default.aspx?PC=GA&PK>) About (<https://www.galeriemagazine.com/about/>)
Press (<https://www.galeriemagazine.com/press/>) Advertising (<https://www.galeriemagazine.com/advertising/>)
Contact Us (<https://www.galeriemagazine.com/contact/>)

Galerie Magazine © 2018 SANDOW. All Rights Reserved. Privacy Policy (<https://www.galeriemagazine.com/privacy-policy/>)

CONNECT WITH GALERIE

- ([HTTP://FACEBOOK.COM](http://facebook.com)) 
- ([HTTP://TWITTER.COM/](http://twitter.com/)) 
- ([HTTP://INSTAGRAM.COM](http://instagram.com/)) 
- ([HTTP://PINTEREST.COM](http://pinterest.com)) 
- ([HTTP://GALERIEMAG.TL](http://galeriemag.tl)) 