



THE INSIDER  
**STEVEN  
 LEARNER**

Every spring, New York's design community convenes for NYCxDesign: a weeklong celebration recognizing the year's best design and previewing what's to come. Amid the itinerary of trade shows and launch parties, the Collective Design fair stands out for its deeply discerning exhibits by talents like Lindsey Adelman, Fort Standard, Apparatus and Calico Wallpaper. Here, we ask the fair's founder, Steven Learner, for his pre-season forecast. [collectivedesignfair.com](http://collectivedesignfair.com)

**Design must-sees:** Everything important in the design scene right now is happening below 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. From Chelsea to the Lower East Side, design is flourishing in studios, restaurants and shops. When I'm in the LES, I never miss a chance to visit places like Coming Soon, Green Fingers on Rivington and The Future Perfect on Great Jones.

**For the art-focused:** The New Museum is a regular stop for me, along with Salon 94 on Bowery and Freeman Alley. I also love to frequent the Whitney Museum of American Art on Gansevoort and the Met Breuer to pay homage to Marcel Breuer's genius.

**How is design changing?** It is becoming less about function and more about expression. I love the blurring of boundaries that's happening between design and art and how it's also becoming more global in its influences as well as its impact.

**Ones to watch:** In New York, I love the work of Chris Wolston and his hands-on approach to making and exploring materials. I am also fascinated by OTHR, Joe Doucet's digitally printed design platform with products by Jonah Takagi and others. At the other end of the spectrum, keep an eye on the chaotic and overtly personal work of Katie Stout.

# ON VIEW

## YAYOI KUSAMA: NARCISSUS GARDEN THROUGH NOVEMBER 30

The Glass House, an iconic landmark in New Canaan, Connecticut, designed and inhabited by the late architect Philip Johnson, is a must-visit this fall. On view at the residence through November 30 is a special installation by prolific Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, whose work Johnson collected. The acclaimed exhibit, "Narcissus Garden," first created by the artist in 1966 for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Venice Biennale, is being introduced to celebrate what would be Johnson's 110<sup>th</sup> birthday as well as the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the residence's museum conversion. The installation comprises 1,300 steel spheres, each 1 foot in diameter, floating in the property's pond as a drifting sculpture, reflecting the surrounding 49-acre landscape and neighboring Pond Pavilion. Along with the shiny cluster, the Glass House will feature Kusama's recently completed, larger-than-life steel *Pumpkin* sculpture. [theglasshouse.org](http://theglasshouse.org)



THE INSIDER PHOTO: EMILY JOHNSON. ON VIEW PHOTO: MATTHEW PLACEK. GRAND OPENING PHOTO: COURTESY POLIFORM USA.

## GRAND OPENING POLIFORM

One step through the double doors of Poliform's forthcoming flagship on Madison Avenue and you're immediately transported from the commotion of Midtown East to a space that more closely resembles a minimalist's townhome than a design showroom. "We thought about the ways our clients live; then, we designed an upscale home environment well equipped for a couple that appreciates design, quality and luxury living in New York," explains Laura Anzani, the chief operating officer of Poliform USA. Opening in late September, the 10,000-square-foot space will reflect the ideal crash pad for a design-conscious customer's day-to-day activities. To achieve this, the Italian brand's in-house team designed a series of stylish vignettes to provide much-needed inspiration for the living rooms, libraries and dining areas their inventory aims to furnish. The kitchen, too, serves as a design showcase—both decorative and efficient—and conceals a second full-fledged chef's kitchen, as well. Details of quality and sophistication continue through the flagship's master bedroom and into the larger-than-life walk-in closet. Our only question is: When can we move in? [poliformusa.com](http://poliformusa.com)

