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ART + DESIGN + ARCHITECTURE

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LIGHT FANTASTIC

ARTIST MATTHEW SCHREIBER'S TRIPPY AESTHETIC



The tagline on the website of **PIE (Project Import Export)** is “This ain’t yo momma’s wicker,” and it certainly ain’t. This young Miramar-based furniture concern, helmed by the husband-and-wife team of Bannavis Andrew and Michelle Sribyatta, designs and produces modern furniture using sustainable materials such as water hyacinth, bamboo, and rattan. They craft these materials into avant-garde shapes using environmentally friendly techniques like weaving water-softened vines onto metal frames and letting them dry in the sun.

This is PIE’s second year at the fair. Sribyatta found last year’s experience equal parts inspiration and irritation. “I met the Campana brothers [famed Brazilian designers Fernando and Humberto]—they actually walked up to my booth and started looking at my stuff,” he says. “But it’s really annoying to me to see a Herman Miller booth that is 30 by 30 feet, showing the same chair I’ve seen [for] 15 years, and people still wowing about it. I believe other younger designers feel the same way about ICFE, but it’s [still] an extremely good experience for us to go neck and neck with Herman Miller and big European companies.” PIE will be showing one brand-new design, the seven-foot-long rattan Tulip chair, designed for communal sitting. Says Sribyatta: “I believe one should never sit alone.”



