#### A reimagined rocking chair

David Raffoul and Nicolas Mous-sallem's Loulou rocking chair was originally presented in 2014 as part "Loulou/Hoda," an exhibition in the designers' native Beirut, Lebanon. The show was named after their

ined for their generation. Meaning the rocking chair, Mr. Moussallem said, was "lower and a bit more loungey than a traditional rocking chair." It holds your back in a relaxed still a still straight they do not still straight they. The footness of the straight they do not still straight they. The footness of david/nicolas, when was escend studio in Milan, initially offered the upholstered rocker in an edition of I.2 Two years ago, Mr. Raffoul posted a picture on Instagram of the chair in ther Beirut office. The post caught the attention of Sixtia formiture company Gallotti & Radice, with whom they had previously collaborated.

The rocker, she said, "feel like more han just a piece of furniture—it had a strong personality and a unique presence that reconsted with me instantly." It is being introduced at



The Loulou rocking chair, from 2014, is being reintroduced at Salone del Mol

tion that it will resonate with others, too.
"Ten years ago our reach was very small," Mr. Moussallem said. "I'm very curious to see how the public

SPACES

## Creating 'quiet witnesses'

"I don't know if you've ever had that feeling when you walk into a really old home, and you just sort of feel a soul in the space," said Whitney Krieger, an interior and product designer based in New York City and Florence, Italy. "Or if you go vintage shopping and you touch things, and you can just tell they've lived a thousand lives."

sand lives."
Ms. Krieger was explaining why
sen named her two-year-old design
studio Soft Witness. In this case,
"soft" means hushed, and "witness" "soft" means hushed, and "witness" means that the objects surrounding us in our homes aren't just sitting there but have some kind of animating force of their own.
"So everything we create in a space are quiet witnesses to our lives," she

are quiet witnesses to our lives," she said.

As with many people, the Covid pandemic shock Ms. Krieger out of one of those lives and deposited her into another. Formerly a senior designer at the New York City interiors company ArroXO, she decided to return to school to study product design in Italy and then to open a business in that epicenter of high-end furniture malking. This week at the Alcova fair, she is exhibiting a mix of production goods and prototypes, including the Conochair covered in baby alpaca mobial ("soft" as in fuzzy), which was in spired by a head of romanesco cauli-conochair covered in baby alpaca mobial ("soft" as in fuzzy), which was in spired by a head of romanesco cauli-conochair covered in Suprised by a head of romanesco cauli-cono, which Ms. Krieger designed a few years ago while still in graduate school (and then parked the first prototype in her living room), origi-



The Cono chair from Soft Witness was inspired by a head of romanesco caulifl

nally evoked a kind of slogan in her mind: "Look spiky, sit soft." The idea was to defeat the beholder's expecta-tions. "When you sit in it, it's almost like a little massage," she said.

Soft Witness products can be seen Monday through Sunday at the Al-cova exhibition at the Villa Borsani, 148 Via Umberto I, Varedo, Italy; softwitness.com. JULIE LASKY

METALWORK

### Inspired home furnishings

Furrowed and pebbly beach sand, the rotating torses of modern dancers, flame reflections shimmering in polished metal — these are some phenomen that the designer and sculptor Gregory Beson observes meditatively and incorporates into his inventory. His latest furniture in this venifor the metalwork company Mingardo will debut at Milan Design Week.

s. ass candlesticks (named Eva, to

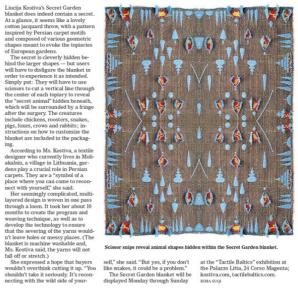


The designer Gregory Beson's William table for the metalwork company Mingardo

eling around the walnut slab seats.
He has enjoyed watching people privating in the Pina prototype, leaning from side to side, "finding their ways in it," he said. Mingardo gald vady at through Sunday at Mingardo's new gallery at 42 Corso di Porta bubbling that seems to shift when Nouva; mingardo.com. DEM KALEN

#### A blanket for your wild side

Liucija Kostiva's Secret Garden blanket does indeed contain a secret. At a glance, it seems like a lovely cotton jacquard throw, with a pattern inspired by Persian carpet motifs and composed of various geometric shapes meant to evoke the topiaries of European georgetes. In the control of European georgetes in the control of European georgetes. In the control of European georgetes in the secret an intended the secret an intende the surgery. The creatures include chickens, roosters, snakes, pigs, foxes, crows and rabbits; instructions on how to customize the blanket are included in the packaging.



#### Handcrafted, with personality

Inese nome turnismings come with their own personalities, free of charge. The designer Lara Bohine has part-nered with Uniqka, an Istanbul-based leather design brand, to create her five-piece Betsy collection — with a round coffee table, a side table, a console, a bench and a standing mir-ror.

mals, Ms. Bohine said. "Whenever you see a cute animal, you want to stroke it, you want to touch it, and this one's not going for un away, so you can play with it."

The collection gets its name from the dancing Mupper Betsy Bird, who, Ms. Bohine recalled, always mether laugh when she was growing up.

"When items become something that almost seems alive, something that almost seems alive, something



that you want to play with, it's got its own personality," she said, adding, "I Bagatti Valsecchi, 48 Via Vittorio think that's quite important to me." Emanuele II; alcova.xyz.

MORGAN MALGET

# Family portraits in glass

Kiki Goti alluded to women in her own family when she designed her Graces vase collection, being shown at the Alcova fair during Milan De-



valdo furniture collection by the Office of Tangible Space, a New York architectural studio. The exhibition is on view Monday through Sunday at the Villa Borsani, 148 Via Umberto I, Varedo, Italy; klkigoti.com. YELENA MOROZ ALPERT