



Forging a New Craft Aesthetic: Ten Inspiring South Korean Designers

Combining modern innovation with traditional techniques is no mean feat, yet contemporary designers from [South Korea](#) are doing just that. Creating objects that are at once both familiar and new, they manage to keep a firm grasp on the past whilst simultaneously looking to the future.



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In recent years, [South Korea](#)'s design scene has exploded. Boasting biennales dedicated to contemporary craft and design in Cheongju and Gwangju respectively, South Korea has a plethora of designers and craftspeople. The designers we have chosen represent just a small fraction of the talent, which is clearly in abundance within the country. A far cry from the gaudy K-Pop that one usually associates with South Korea, these designers take inspiration from their

surroundings. Whether amplifying the beauty of natural materials, using found objects or emulating the biomorphic shapes visible in nature, these designers blend traditional techniques with modern innovation.

Choi Byung Hoon

Described as the forerunner of [Korean Art Furniture](#), Choi Byung Hoon combines exquisite craftsmanship with innovative design to create his beautiful pieces. Believing that 'craft is secondary to the beauty of nature', his work is focused on this ethos, and he experiments with form, texture and material. Rather than manipulating materials to the extent that they no longer bear a resemblance to their former identity

Choi works with them, using the textures of wood and stone to play an important role in the finished article. By reinterpreting and modernizing existing ideas on the relationship between art and functional objects, Choi brings traditional techniques of furniture making up to date.



Choi Byung Hoon Table | © Gallery Seomi