



byhAA
studio

Photo: Sherifa Hamid
Styling: Ellen Simonia Rasmussen

Danish design duo opens new boutique in Nansensgade

After two decades in Egypt and Kenya, design duo Ellen Simonia Rasmussen and Henrik Dahlfelt return to Copenhagen with a universe centred on natural materials and a love of craftsmanship.

Studio ByHaa create Danish handmade interior designs in collaboration with Kenyan and Egyptian artisans, rooted in a holistic design philosophy.

During the upcoming **3daysofdesign** festival (10–12 June) in Copenhagen, the duo will open the doors to their shop at Nansensgade 86 with the exhibition **TANGIBLE TIME**. The exhibition explores design and architectural processes, from the geological formation and extraction of materials to their journey through the hands of craftspeople who shape and create each object. Visitors are invited to immerse themselves in the raw beauty of the materials and experience their timeless perspective, which extends far beyond the human life scale.

The combined studio and boutique has just opened, offering objects that merge Nordic minimalism with craft traditions from Egypt and East Africa. The studio's products: lamps, rugs, textiles, bowls, and smaller interior objects are all made from natural materials such as alabaster, brass, banana leaves, cotton, and wool.

"The story of the materials matters to us, and we know the people behind the craft personally,"

The designs are made piece by piece by local African artisans, with whom the duo has built close, personal relationships over the past two decades.

"We are fascinated by the materials' own stories and the transformation they undergo when shaped by human hands," explains architect and designer Ellen Simonia Rasmussen. "An alabaster stone is 30 million years old before it becomes a lamp in someone's home. We want to make this sense of time and tactility visible in our designs. It's important for us to create a connection between the material, the artisan, ourselves as designers, and the buyer."

Production is carried out in small batches, with artisans setting their own prices and production levels to ensure maximum autonomy. ByHAA also collaborates with female refugees through the UNHCR's MADE51 programme. In an interior design industry dominated by mass production and heavily processed materials, ByHAA aims to offer a grounded alternative, rooted in Nordic design tradition.

"We design things people want to live with for many years. The imperfect and handmade brings calm to a space often filled with right angles and mass-produced objects. Our designs are a reminder that humans are not perfect and that we are part of the nature around us. We want to create objects with soul and identity—pieces people will want to have close for decades. We instinctively feel the joy of beautiful craftsmanship, or the sensation of a tactile material, even if it's not perfect," says designer Henrik Georg Dahlfelt.

ByHAA's curated selection in their new Nansensgade boutique includes stone lamps, candlesticks, hand-knotted rugs, and accessories, on show now.



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As part of the **TANGIBLE TIME** exhibition during 3daysofdesign, **Studio ByHAA** will shift focus for one evening from materials and craft to the modern soundscapes of Cairo. The night will offer a taste of the city's contemporary musical pulse, from Arabic rap and trip-hop to popm, reflecting the layered rhythms of one of the world's most dynamic metropolises. Egyptian-inspired drinks and small dishes will accompany the event, transforming the studio from an exhibition space into a social hub. The evening provides a glimpse into today's Cairo: creative, hectic, and constantly evolving.

Exhibition: TANGIBLE TIME / 3daysofdesign June 10-12
Studio ByHAA
Nansensgade 86, Copenhagen

Event: Cairo Contemporary Night / 3 daysofdesign
June 12, warm up from 5pm to 8 pm
Studio ByHAA på Nansensgade 86



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