

## 'De Ida y Vuelta': a new show in Mexico City brings together the work of 60 young designers

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Installation view at the De Ida y Vuelta show, featuring 'Knit chair' (centre) by Emiliano Godoy, 2004. Photography: Jose Manuel Espinola


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Tucked away in the colourful Centro Nacional de las Artes in Mexico City, a small and neatly curated show sheds light on a thriving contemporary design scene. *De Ida y Vuelta* (which loosely translates as 'Back and Forth') consists of 150 prototypes and finished objects by 60 Mexican designers, most of who have only been in operation since 2010.


### INFORMATION

[De Ida y Vuelta runs at CENART](#) until 27 April and will tour Mexico throughout 2014

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'The premise of the show is that ideas, skills and traditions go back and forth between designers and craftspeople,' explains Mexican curator Ana Elena Mallet. New works by established names such as Emiliano Godoy, Hector Esrawe, Ariel Rojo and Oscar Hagerman are present, but Mallet has purposefully sought out young designers working alone and in collectives.

Bi Yuu is a young brand created by textile designer Marisol Centeno, who works with artisans in Oaxaca to make handcrafted rugs. Also in the younger crew are collectives such as Rehilete, Pentagono and 10500 (degrees), which have reinterpreted traditional wooden stools, chairs and ceramics in new ways.

'Most exhibitors are industrial designers (with an average age of 30) who are working with craftspeople. They are conscious of their context, and are reinterpreting their Mexican roots in new ways,' says Mallet. The majority are based in Mexico but Mallet has cast her net wide to include a handful of expats creating cross-collaborations back home. Among them are London-based Valentina Gonzalez Wohlers and Jose de la O, who after graduating from the Eindhoven Design Academy, headed to Yucatan to reinterpret the wooden rocking chairs specific to the region.

A highlight is the hefty, hand-carved cookware by Julio Martinez Barnetche. Bowls, pots and trivets are carved from the black volcanic rock ubiquitous to Mexico, while the *vasija fermentadora* is a giant vessel in which to store and ferment agave sap in order to make pulque, the local hooch.