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## CONSTANCE GUISSET

*Steering clear from figures that “hurt”, this French dreamer’s creations are rooted in grace and whimsy*



Clockwise, from Top Left Ankara 2009 Collection; Duplex, an aquarium cum bird cage for Specimen, 2010; Spin 1 carpet for Nodus, 2013; Cairn magnetic wooden boxes for Small Fry, 2011; Stella revolving shelf for Pullucco, 2013; Portrait of Constance Guisset; Chantilly lamps for Moustache, 2013  
 Constance Guisset, Paris.  
 Website: [www.constanceguisset.com](http://www.constanceguisset.com)



Photographs courtesy Gabriel de Vienne, Marco Moretto, Photo Ribon, Photo Guisset



“For me some shapes, like square that don’t have any roundness, look like weapons. I will never make something like that,” says Constance. She fabricates products to “make them dance and add lightness” while going beyond the mere technical aspect. An MBA graduate who briefly studied at IIM-Ahmedabad, she assisted Japan’s Foreign Affairs minister and pursued another degree in political science. She then joined a French art gallery in 2002. “The moment I began working, I realised I didn’t want this kind of a job,” says the Parisian industrial designer. The path she craved was influenced by her hobbies of carpentry, sculpting and drawing. To equip herself with the necessary skill set, she enrolled at ENSCI-Les Ateliers to study product design and worked as an administrator with the Bouroullec brothers for seven odd years.

In her work since, she has carved a signature style. Aspects like motion, delicacy and colour resonate in her creations as do joy and happiness. Movement, she believes, momentarily “transports one’s mind”, while the usage of hues “is a risk that requires courage”. Unless commissioned, material is never her starting point. Structure and form always take precedence where curvier contours lend softness and elegance. Apart from furniture and lifestyle products, her repertoire includes scenography and more recently, interior decoration. “I do radical things and sometimes it’s in pink. Not because I am a woman, but because I choose it and assume it,” she asserts. ♦ **Aditi Gaitonde**