



THE ART OF EDGE: AN ONBOARD COLLECTION

BY CHRISTINA BOHNSTENGEL

Oversized installations, ever-changing abstracts, 20th-century Modernists, and a curation of contemporaries adorn these decks.

On *Celebrity Edge*, the ambitious design ethos did not only apply to the architecture of the ship or the aesthetics of the entertainment spaces, suites, staterooms, and spa. The dramatic difference of this industry-changing ship also shows up in the expertly curated onboard art collection. The creative team pulled out all the stops inviting a multitude of visionary artists and breakthrough talents on board, amassing photographs, paintings, sculptures, and mixed-media pieces from artists hailing from Australia, Israel, South Africa, England, Germany, and beyond.

Fredrikson Stallard, *Avalon*.

Australian Alexia Sinclair creates color photographs so detailed and in-depth viewers often mistake them for portrait paintings. This seems apropos considering Sinclair takes inspiration from historical figures and Golden Age portraits from the 1800s. Ditching the raw honesty of the lens, she opts instead for surreal depictions of elaborate fantastical scenes with subjects costumed, makeup-ed, and adorned in a 19th-century fashion. Elaborate and dramatically staged, she crafts her own costumes, props, and sets and embellishes hundreds of detailed layers in post-production. The dimensions are large, the colors rich, the subjects striking, and upon closer inspection contain hidden surprises that are only revealed when viewed up close. On *Celebrity Edge*, look for two of Sinclair's stunning photographs as part of the onboard collection.



Alexia Sinclair,
Bird in the Hand.

While Sinclair will entrance the eyes on *Celebrity Edge* through the medium of photography, Israeli artist Zemer Peled presents a series of six sculptures representing the natural world. She looks for inspiration in Mother Nature and the great outdoors, traveling, hiking, and visiting botanical gardens in every new place she visits—a perfect fit for this revolutionary ship that aims to bring guests

closer in touch with nature. From a Kibbutz in Israel to England's Royal College of Art to exhibitions at Sotheby's, Saatchi Gallery in London, and Art Miami, Peled's practice is devoted to the environment and landscapes. Through ceramics, sculptures, and installations, she reshapes fragments of broken porcelain into large and complex blooming abstracts that almost beg to be touched.



Sculptures by Zemer Peled.

Celebrity Edge presents a breathtaking artistic feat with Lionel Smit's sculpture work. The South African contemporary artist uses portrait paintings to create enormous sculptures of a subject's face. He works in bronze, using one of the oldest known metal-forming techniques, wax casting. While most bronze patinas show in browns, blacks, and greens, Smit's passion for paints brings a unique fusion of intensely saturated color to the metal. He pushes the envelope with brilliant streaks of blues and greens to showcase the grooves of an ear, or deepens the rich blacks to highlight the natural shadow of an eyelid. His work has exhibited in the National Portrait Gallery in London, receiving the Viewer's Choice Award, appeared on the cover of Christie's Auction Catalogue, in Union Square, New York, for a public art installation, and now on board *Celebrity Edge*.



Lionel Smit at work on
Colossal Fragment.

Inspired by ancient Greek traditions, as well as the work of Michelangelo, Sophie Dickens comes to *Celebrity Edge* by way of England, and as the great, great granddaughter of Charles Dickens. With a background in anatomy and history, her sculpture work often reflects the aesthetic details of a body, particularly athletes, in motion, referencing back to the original Olympians. Her sketch drawings graduate to welding metal rods together, layering on specific pieces of worked or curved wood, applying clay to the form, and translating into bronze. "The most important part of my education as an artist was the study of the history of art—the history of physical expression and the manipulation of others, as a means of making a nonverbal statement about who we are and what we believe," she says.



Sophie Dickens at work.

Another British piece aboard *Celebrity Edge* comes from Ann Carrington, who claims a commission by the Queen for The Royal Jubilee Banner. Here, her ship made of pearls, *Jiao Long*, was inspired by an industrial estate in China that manufactures pearl adornments in colossal quantities. As the artists explains, it represents the discrepancy between the perceived status of pearls as symbols of refined taste and wealth and the often very unromantic reality. "*Jiao Long* is a Chinese sailing Junk believing the dream, cruising on a tangled never-ending sea of wedding tiaras, chokers, and earrings."



Ann Carrington, *Jiao Long*.



Acclaimed interior designers seek out Fredrickson Stallard for their sculptural furniture. Luxury brands look to them for statement pieces in flagship boutiques. Their showstopping chandeliers swing in the swankiest hotels. And now, an immersive installation from the London design team will grace part of a deck on *Celebrity Edge*. Since 1995, Patrik Fredrikson and Ian Stallard have

claimed international applause as leading exponents of British avant-garde art and design. With *Avalon*, a forest of solid bronze sculptures, they aim to invoke the spirit of a journey. Their work has been acquired by the French National Art Collection, twice by the Victoria and Albert Museum, and shown at the Design Museum in London, MoMA, and the Museum of Art and Design in New York.

A big applause!

We are giving Celebrity Cruises a standing ovation for the new *Celebrity Edge* cruise ships, and offer our wholehearted congratulations. May they always glide smoothly and safely through the world's oceans – thanks to their fin stabilizers, made by SKF Marine.

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French artist Xavier Veilhan is the author of an acclaimed body of work spanning sculpture, painting, installation, and photography. He is perhaps most widely known for his variations on classical statuary, of which a new series of seven figures is installed on *Celebrity Edge*, each made of birch plywood. His work is featured in museums around the world and can be found on street corners and public squares from New York, Paris, and Shanghai to Stockholm and Seoul. In 2017, Veilhan was chosen to represent France at the 57th Venice Biennale, transforming his national pavilion into an immersive recording studio dedicated to audio experimentation.



Xavier Veilhan, *Manfredi, Ana, Jana, Nataša, Tony, and Florian* (2017). Birch plywood, epoxy varnish.

In keeping with *Edge's* directive to connect guests closer to nature, animated artists James Paulley and Katie Scott looked at plants that worked with a Garden of Eden theme. They explained the philosophy of the piece is to create a sense of curiosity with elements that move ever so slightly. Guests may walk past the wall several times before even realizing it's alive. The plants grow, pollinate, seed, and transform. The garden is never completely still, some part is always transitioning into the next phase of the life cycle, and there is no beginning or end to the piece.



Courtesy of Perrotin | Photo © Claire Dorn © Veilhan/ADAGP, 2018

Animated art by Katie Scott and James Paulley.



Hedi Xandt sculpture.

While exploring the decks and transformative, imaginative spaces of *Celebrity Edge*, also be on the lookout for photographs from Kristian Schuller and a sculpture from Hedi Xandt. Though varied in scope, each piece aboard *Celebrity Edge* is a testament to the innovative creative spirit of how this ship connects all aboard to deeper meanings in and of the world in which we live.



Kristian Schuller photograph.