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Winner of first prize at Salone Satellite WorldWide Moscow 2016, Tanya Repina is a Russian designer with a penchant for pine needles. She impressed the judges with her sustainable 'Elkiigolki' series of objects, including a chair and table made entirely from pine needles and biodegradable polyester. 'Usually in Russia this component [pine needles] is not used and is disposed of,' explains Repina, who harvests the needles from renewable forests. 'Possible

applications for the composite are very broad. It may be used for lamps, furniture, toys, wall panels and more.'

As part of her prize, Repina will be showing her work at Salone Satellite 2017 in Milan. The designer, who has founded Moscow-based Aotta Studio with fellow designer Misha Repin, will present a new line of freestanding and wall-mounted sound-absorbing panels made using the same biodegradable material. Needles from a variety of trees - such as spruce, pine and larch - are used to create a range of textures and natural hues.

Ahead of her Milan debut, Repina says, 'I'm excited about the feedback from exhibition visitors, and about finding new professional and personal contacts'.

Satellite in 2009; he showcased a coffee table prototype with a distinctive bell-shaped glass base. The design attracted the interest of German manufacturer ClassiCon, which put it into production in 2012 - the table became the brand's bestselling piece of contemporary furniture. 'Marva is an incredible and unique personality with a huge passion for design and her young designers,' says Herkner.

Norwegian designer and fellow Satellite alumnus Daniel Rybakken agrees: 'Marva has always been very kind to me. Her true goal is to help young designers get noticed and she has a long list of well-known international designers that have her to thank for that. My whole career was started at Satellite. I went down to Milan as a student in 2008 and came home with a full page in *Wallpaper** and over ten pages in *Abitare*. If you do something good at Satellite, the right people will notice it.'

Last year, Basel-based American designer Ini Archibong showcased his work at Satellite for the first time after a meeting with Griffin Wilshire in 2012. 'It took me four more years before I felt ready to present myself,' recalls Archibong. 'I would see Marva at various design events, where she always offered words of encouragement.' When Archibong finally presented his collection at Satellite 2016, Griffin Wilshire sent a steady stream of manufacturers to his booth and he scored a number of design contracts. 'I owe a great deal to Marva and Satellite, and I consider >>

TANYA REPINA IN HER MOSCOW STUDIO, WITH PIECES FROM HER 'ELKIIGOLKI' COLLECTION OF FURNITURE AND OBJECTS, MADE FROM PINE NEEDLES AND BIODEGRADABLE POLYESTER

Matteo Thun, Poliform chief executive Giovanni Anzani and design critic Corinne Julius, among others. The chosen few get the opportunity to put their work in front of the industry's biggest players, who, with a bit of luck, will offer them a job or snap up their prototypes for production.

'Many of them write to me telling me of their achievements,' says Griffin Wilshire. The fair has debuted a number of designers who are now international stars. 'Think of Nendo and Sebastian Herkner, for example.' German designer Herkner secured a booth at