

ANDRÉS MONNIER'S STONE TUB MAKES BATHING A RITE OF RENEWAL

The dramatic piece transforms a daily scrub into an act of communion with the elements.

BY OSMAN CAN YEREBAKAN



Bathtubs occupy a particular place among furniture. One may fleetingly touch a cabinet or recline for a while in a chair. But full bodily immersion — with one's skin in contact with the water and the contours of the tub — is essential to a bathing ritual.

In the design of such a tactile object, the material is key to delivering an optimal experience. That perhaps explains why Andrés Monnier's Baptiz rock bathtub is so alluring. The rough-hewn stone basin conveys a connection with the natural world and a promise of corporal and spiritual rejuvenation in sync with the holy rite of the work's title.

The hefty piece is rendered from a massive block of Portoro marble sourced from the Dominican Republic. Created during Monnier's second residency with Santo Domingo's Marmotech Design Center, it was included in "Montesino," an exhibition of work by Latin American artists presented by the Geneva-based Galerie Philia during Design Week República Dominicana in March.