



INDIGENOUS AFRICAN DESIGN

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**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Ngala Trading Co. Partners with South African-based Clarisse Design to Bring Sculptural  
Leather Lighting to North America**

The handcrafted leather light fixtures feature lush indigenous leaf designs found in the tropical region of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

**March 1, 2021; New York, NY** – Ngala Trading Co. partners with Durban, South Africa-based Clarisse Design to bring a curated selection of leather pendant lighting depicting sculptural sub-tropical foliage to the North American design marketplace. Adding to a beloved, well-known product category of Ngala Trading Co, the Clarisse Design pendants will be available starting March 1, 2021.

The initial offering of Clarisse Design lighting includes two popular styles: Delicious and Blade lights. The Delicious pendant, offered in seven colors, features a large-scale collection of five leather *Philodendron Monstera* (Delicious Monster) leaves backed with stainless steel. The Blade pendant offers a slender alternative, made of vibrant colored leather and accented with brass or stainless-steel closures. The Blade pendant is available in three sizes and seven colors, featuring pierced or unpierced leather options.

“When I saw these pendants in South Africa, I knew immediately we needed to track down the maker and introduce them in America,” says Lawson Ricketts, creative director and co-founder of Ngala Trading Co. “Xavier Clarisse’s work has a theme of theatricality of the object itself – it’s interactive, full of movement and playfulness. It adds a wonderful new feeling to our offerings.”

Founded by Xavier Clarisse, Clarisse Design aligns with Ngala Trading Co.’s mission to bring a story of curated, handmade, luxury South African design to the North American marketplace. Living in South Africa, Xavier is inspired by his local surroundings of both nature and the local aesthetic. The abundant subtropical vegetation, vibrant color and diversity of Durban is reflected in many of his designs.

“I try to translate my point of view in a simple and honest way with product design,” says Xavier Clarisse, founder of Clarisse Design. “My work intersects art and design, and the concepts are infused with meaningful layers. Having lived in Africa for fifteen years, I wish to portray the real essence of my adopted home, free from idealizations and stereotypes.”

To view the new product in person, Clarisse Design lighting is on display at Ngala Trading Co.’s flagship showroom in the New York Design Center and will be showcased to the trade at the International Home Furnishings Market in High Point, NC in June 2021. For more information, please visit [NgalaTrading.com](http://NgalaTrading.com).

**About Ngala Trading Co.:** Ngala Trading Co. is a leading resource to North America's leading boutique home furnishing stores and interior design firms for their lighting, furniture, decor and accessories requirements. Founded in 2016 by Nick Geimer and Lawson Ricketts, Ngala Trading Co. is now the largest importer and distributor of sustainably- and ethically-sourced handmade, luxury lighting, furniture & home decor curated from across the African continent. Design headquarters for Ngala Trading Co. is based in New York, New York. To learn more, visit [www.ngalatrading.com](http://www.ngalatrading.com).

**About Clarisse Design:** Clarisse Design is founded by artist and designer Xavier Clarisse and is based in Durban, South Africa. Originally from Lyon, France, Xavier Clarisse attended 'L'Ecole Nationale des Beaux Arts' specializing in sculpture and product design and has worked in France, the UK and now South Africa. Drawing from its local, natural surroundings, Clarisse Design lighting represents the abundant sub-tropical vegetation and vibrant color found in Durban, while experimenting with different materials including leather and brass to bring the designs to life. To learn more, visit [www.clarissedesign.com](http://www.clarissedesign.com).

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