

## **Material Lights Press Release**

### **ABOUT**

Material Lights is a design studio creating artisanal lighting objects that bridge traditional craftsmanship and contemporary design. Specialising in material-driven pieces, our work embraces hand-carved Egyptian alabaster, wood, and experimental mixed media like ostrich eggs. Each piece—whether a standalone sculptural object or limited-series lighting design—celebrates the dialogue between form, material, and light. We craft collectible works that are poetic and nurturing, offering softly diffused light that comforts as much as it captivates.

Designed and crafted in Stockholm, Sweden, by founders Nada El-Kateb and Toma Sova. Nada is an Egyptian-Swedish architect with a background in urban planning and spatial design, while Toma is a lighting designer with a deep interest in sensory environments and material expression. Together, they blend their disciplines to create lighting that feels both timeless and intimate.

### **STORY**

Material Lights began in their bedroom—not a studio—with a lighting problem and an ostrich egg from a South Africa trip many years earlier. Tired of harsh bedside lamps, Nada placed a flashlight inside the egg and discovered a soft, moonlike glow. That became the spark for Lunar Lumin, their first lamp—crafted with a turned cap, burgundy cord, and maple bracket to celebrate the egg's light.

This playful, curious approach is still how they work: fall in love with a material, prototype freely, then strip back to what truly matters. Material Lights is slow-made design, rooted in problem-solving and love of material

## **WORKS**

**Seeba Series | Table Lamps** | Hand-carved alabaster shades with either Shou Sugi Ban-finished solid maple wood legs or heat-textured clear acrylic bases.

A sculptural fusion of ancient Egyptian craftsmanship and modern Scandinavian design. The brown alabaster in Seeba Maple glows softly with a moonlike warmth, contrasted by its charred maple base. Seeba Bubbly pairs white alabaster with a flowing, octopus-like acrylic base that catches and reflects light subtly. Each lamp is unique, shaped by natural stone variations and handcrafted detail.

**Comet | Table Lamp** | Wax-treated alabaster shade, interlocking walnut base.

A limited-series of 40 lamps pairing stonework with sculptural walnut geometry. The warm alabaster is hand-carved in Upper Egypt, while the dome-inspired base is crafted in our Stockholm workshop from two arched walnut pieces. When lit, the waxed stone reveals a rich, glowing depth. Each lamp is individually numbered and comes with a signed certificate.

**Lunar Lumin | Wall Lamp** | Ostrich eggshell, maple wood frame, burgundy viscose cable.

A softly glowing wall lamp inspired by moonlight and memory. The eggshell shade emits a warm, calming light. A turned wooden cap and minimal vertical frame hold the shell in place. Designed in Sweden, the piece traces its origin to a family trip to South Africa—an egg tucked away for years, reborn as light.

**Shroom Series | Table Lamps** | Hand-carved alabaster shades, clear acrylic cores.

Bridging ancient craft and modern design, the Shroom Series features softly glowing alabaster forms carved in Upper Egypt and assembled with seamless acrylic structures in Stockholm. Each lamp offers a warm, ambient light and celebrates the natural beauty of stone—subtle, sculptural, and soothing in any setting.

**Born/Reborn | Wall and Table Lights** | Handcrafted ceramic elements paired with genuine ostrich egg shades | *Andrea Tsang x Material Lights*

A poetic collaboration blending Material Lights signature ostrich egg forms with Andrea Tsang's sculptural ceramics. The collection reflects nature's cycle with simple, elegant forms that bring soft, warm light and natural beauty to any space.