



RUB-A-DUB: Avant owner Dmitry Prut lounges in the Arne tub, inspired by Arne Jacobsen's Egg chair. Behind him is the glow. Below, a detail of a Verner Panton *Mother of Pearl* light fixture.

LIMITED EDITION

Avant sells luxury collections in the Design District

BY SAXON HENRY

saxon@saxonhenry.com

The Miami Design District is chock full of furniture showrooms and art galleries, but an addition to the neighborhood is an artful amalgam of both.

Avant Gallery, which owner Dmitry Prut moved from its Miami Beach location, is filled with rare vintage furniture, authorized limited edition furniture, contemporary art and chic lighting.

Prut, a limited edition collector himself, deems his offerings curated. The collecting bug bit him early, as he was fascinated with *Cribs* on MTV, the reality show featuring tours of celebrity

homes. "I marveled at the beautiful homes, many of which highlighted collections," he says. "I learned of [designer] Verner Panton through the show. His vision blew me away."

Along with Panton lighting and furniture, the new store — 2½ times larger than the Miami Beach locale — will display carpets by Dima Loginoff; signed and numbered pieces by Marcel Wanders; and bathroom fixtures by Milan-based Rapsel, which includes a glow-in-the-dark sink and the Arne bathtub, inspired by Arne Jacobsen's Egg chair.

With prices ranging from \$250 for a sculpture to \$50,000 for his most

expensive chandelier, Prut calls his wares affordable luxury. "This year has been pretty scary in terms of what's going on in the world," he says. "I think the home is becoming a sanctuary from which to escape all of the negativity, and we offer furnishings that inspire a positive emotional connection in collectors."

The Panton Relaxer chair, which was the first piece of collectible furniture that Prut nabbed for himself, will be among the shop's offerings. He says of the iconic design, "It's definitely not your grandmother's rocking chair!"

Prut will be holding events in the

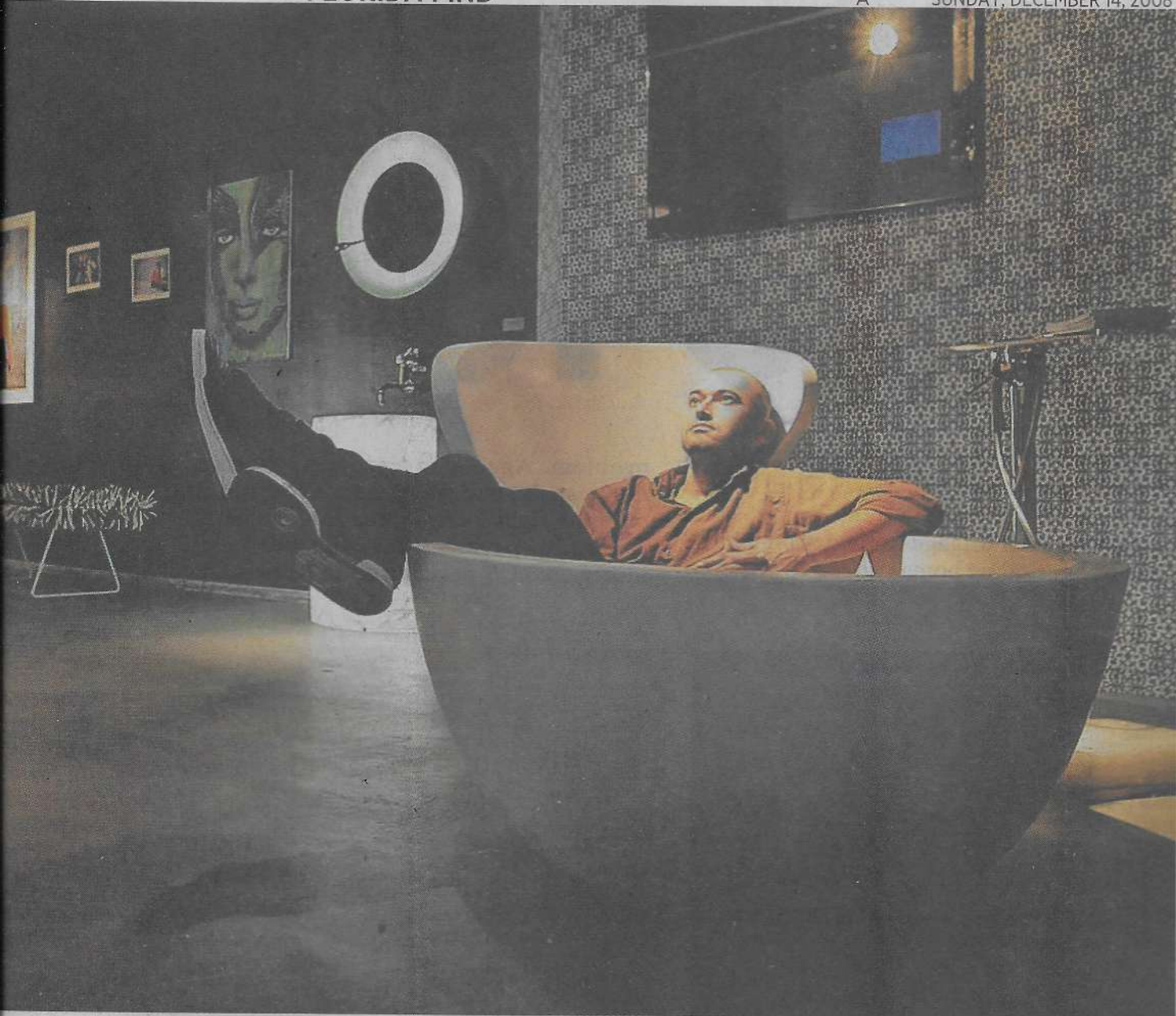
new space. For Verner Panton plans a workshop designer who works in a tradition and contemporary. "We're going to be here for the long haul, we feel are sexy and naughty," Prut says.

AVANT GALLERY

Where: 3850 N. Miami

Hours: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Friday; noon through Sunday

Contact: 305-573-1111
www.avantgallery.com



PHOTOS BY CARL JUSTE/MIAMI HERALD STAFF

anges in the Arne tub, inspired by Arne Jacobsen's Egg chair. Behind him is the gallery's art and furniture for sale.
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new space. For Valentine's Day, he plans a workshop with a Feng Shui designer who works with limited edition and contemporary furniture. "We're going to be holding events that we feel are sexy and maybe even a little naughty," Prut says.

AVANT GALLERY

Where: 3850 N. Miami Ave., Miami

Hours: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday; noon to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Contact: 305-573-8873 or www.avantgallery.com

