

Poltrona Frau and artist Shepard Fairey present the  
Archibald Delicate Balance Limited Edition: a dialogue between art, craft,  
innovation and nature.

- Shepard Fairey, one of the most influential voices in contemporary street art and a reference figure in visual culture, brings his vision and iconic visual language to Poltrona Frau.
- Following collaborations with artist Felipe Pantone, designer Ozwald Boateng, and the Fornasetti brand, Poltrona Frau continues to innovate with a new Limited Edition, transforming the Archibald armchair into a powerful cultural and artistic statement.
- The artwork explores enduring themes of nature, life cycles and human responsibility. A female figure, a well-known icon of the artist and embodiment of Mother Nature, interacts with delicate birds and slender flowers, all recomposed into a unique new illustration.
- Archibald Delicate Balance Limited Edition will be available in only 200 numbered pieces, distributed exclusively through Poltrona Frau flagship stores and a selection of authorized retailers worldwide.
- Archibald Delicate Balance Limited Edition is upholstered in Pelle Frau ColorSphere Impact *Less* leather, digitally printed with multiple color layers and enriched with selective 3D embossing that echoes the effect of the artist's works, using a more responsible tanning process.

Poltrona Frau continues its ongoing dialogue with the art world through a new collaboration with acclaimed artist Shepard Fairey, unveiling the **Archibald Delicate Balance Limited Edition**.

This special artistic edition is a key milestone of the company's 2026 collection theme, **True Over Time** — a concept that celebrates what remains authentic, meaningful and relevant despite the passage of time — and will be unveiled during Salone del Mobile in Milan (from 13<sup>th</sup> until 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026).

This collaboration brings together two creative worlds that, while distinct in language and expression, share a deep commitment to nature and artistic exploration.

Shepard Fairey is one of the most celebrated street artists and a leading figure in contemporary visual culture. His career began in the underground scene of the 1990s and has progressively expanded to achieve international resonance, helping transform urban graphic language into a powerful tool for social, political, and cultural reflection. His practice combines iconic imagery, symbolic layering, and strong narrative sensibility, creating works that engage with public space and the collective imagination.

Through this collaboration, he transforms Poltrona Frau's Archibald armchair into a limited-edition artistic statement, bridging the worlds of street art and craft while reflecting the themes at the heart of the 2026 True Over Time Collection.

Only 200 numbered pieces have been meticulously crafted, each conceived as a unique work of art celebrating craftsmanship, attention to detail, and the creative dialogue that defines this edition, available exclusively at Poltrona Frau flagship stores and a curated selection of authorized retailers worldwide.

In line with Poltrona Frau's longstanding commitment to sustainability and the environmental and social consciousness that distinguishes Shepard Fairey's artistic practice, the collaboration is enriched

by a dedicated initiative developed in partnership with Treedom. For every Archibald *Delicate Balance* armchair purchased, two trees will be planted in Guatemala, in the Huehuetenango region, supporting a community of 80 Indigenous women.

Through the adopted supply-chain model, these women benefit from fairer remuneration for their work, receiving compensation above the local market average. This approach contributes to strengthening their economic independence, enhancing the value of agricultural expertise and promoting more equitable conditions across the supply chain.

The initiative further reinforces the vision underpinning the Limited Edition — a celebration of balance between people and nature — translating its values into a measurable environmental and social impact.

*“With the Delicate Balance Limited Edition, Shepard Fairey offers a powerful interpretation of our Archibald armchair that bridges art and craft with extraordinary clarity. His vision captures the essence of our 2026 theme, True Over Time: the idea that what is truly meaningful endures, evolves and remains relevant. This collaboration reflects our commitment to exploring new creative languages while staying rooted in the values that define Poltrona Frau: craftsmanship, cultural dialogue and respect for the natural world”* comments Nicola Coropulis, CEO of Poltrona Frau.

For Fairey, too, truth is not static, it persists, regenerates and remains relevant over time. This belief takes shape in the artwork developed for the Archibald Delicate Balance Limited Edition, a visual meditation on the enduring relationship between humans and nature.

*“When I was first introduced to Poltrona Frau, I was inspired by the beautiful and harmonious designs as well as the expert craftsmanship and authentic point of view of this innovative and storied brand. In our discussions, we aligned on the meaning of the work with the delicate balance of both the design and aesthetics, as well as the emphasis on respecting and maintaining the beauty of Mother Nature, reflecting that alignment in this “Delicate Balance” armchair”* comments Shepard Fairey.

The visual roots of the project draw from some of Fairey’s most significant works, converging into a new narrative synthesis. The central female figure embodies Mother Nature — a gentle force and guardian of the eternal life cycle — recalling **“Make Art Not War” (2015)**, which evolved later to become part of the monumental Paris mural inspired by the values of the French Republic, and featuring the colors of the flag, where a modern Marianne symbolizes civic dignity, collective responsibility, and social conscience. These themes extend to environmental awareness in the Archibald Delicate Balance.

The motif of birds suspended from flowers directly references **“Natural Springs Bird, Version 2” (2024)**, presented in Milan, where the delicacy of natural balance is depicted as fragile and precious. The large flower dialogue continues Fairey’s exploration in **“Rise Above Flower” (2022)**, where the subject symbolizes birth, transformation, and interconnection. Additional symbolic elements draw from works such as **“Peace Fingers (Geometric)” (2020)**, reflecting Fairey’s ongoing commitment to linking aesthetics and collective responsibility. In *Delicate Balance*, these references are transformed — fragments of visual memory recomposed to generate a new narrative on humanity, nature, and the future.

Delicate Balance, the evocative title chosen by the artist for this project, is itself a manifesto: an invitation to pause, observe, and acknowledge the preciousness and vulnerability of our relationship



with nature. By combining some of his most recognizable visual icons, deeply connected to the central themes of his artistic activism, Fairey transforms the Archibald armchair into a unique dialogue between art and design.

Originally designed in 2009 by French designer Jean-Marie Massaud, Archibald has become one of Poltrona Frau's most iconic and recognizable armchairs in a short period — a symbol of Italian craftsmanship, comfort and sculptural elegance. Fairey's interpretation elevates this heritage, transforming Archibald into a contemporary cultural and artistic statement. This limited edition is a piece conceived to endure—physically, functionally and symbolically—and to remind us of something essential: to protect what protects us.

Leather has always been the core material of Poltrona Frau. Over the decades, the company has explored advanced tanning methods and experimented with techniques that allow it to reinterpret iconic products through new artistic languages.

This continuous evolution took a new direction in 2022 with the “Archibald 100+10 Anniversary Edition”, in collaboration with artist Pantone, introducing digital printing; progressed in 2023 with embossed leather for the “Culture Meets Craft” collection with British fashion designer Oswald Boateng; and advanced further in 2024 and 2025 through silk-screen applications developed for the partnership with Fornasetti.

Building on this legacy, the entire illustration for the Archibald Delicate Balance Limited Edition is digitally printed on Pelle Frau ColorSphere Impact *Less* leather using a new advanced technique. Multiple color layers are applied to specific areas of the armchair's graphic, enhancing visual depth and texture expressiveness. Certain areas feature selective 3D embossing, creating delicate reliefs and adding tactile dimensionality. This evolution required additional development and production time compared to the standard process, reflecting Poltrona Frau's dedication to pushing boundaries and harmonizing craftsmanship with material innovation.

Pelle Frau Impact *Less* leather is crafted using a more sustainable tanning process introduced in 2022. This innovative method eliminates chromium (Cr3) and achieves a 15% reduction in chemical substances and a 10% reduction in water consumption through advanced wastewater recovery technologies. The leather has earned Leather Working Group (LWG) Gold certification, the highest rating awarded by LWG, the global organization that evaluates environmental and social performance within the leather industry, reaffirming Poltrona Frau's ongoing commitment to responsible and conscious luxury.

Each of the 200 numbered armchairs is conceived as a distinctive collector's piece, enhanced by a polished brass plaque and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity signed by the artist and the CEO of Poltrona Frau. The edition is further complemented by a bespoke clutch that echoes the narrative of the artwork.

Inside, a dedicated QR code allows the owner to redeem two coffee trees planted in Guatemala through Treedom, directly linked to their purchase. In this way, each purchase becomes a meaningful gesture of sustainability and social impact — embodying a seamless dialogue between art, craftsmanship and conscious industry.



## **NOTES TO THE EDITORS**

### **POLTRONA FRAU**

Poltrona Frau has been a leader in high-end furnishings since 1912, evolving into a global brand with three distinct business units dedicated to crafting unique design solutions for life's most memorable moments. Its headquarters and core operations are based in Tolentino, in the Marche region of Italy.

Discover more on [www.poltronafrau.com](http://www.poltronafrau.com)

### **SHEPARD FAIREY**

Shepard Fairey is a contemporary street artist, graphic designer, activist, and founder of OBEY Clothing and creative agency Studio Number One. In 1989, while at Rhode Island School of Design studying for his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration, Shepard Fairey created the "Andre the Giant has a Posse" sticker that later evolved into the OBEY GIANT art campaign. In 2008, his portrait of then-Democratic candidate Barack Obama became an internationally recognized emblem of hope. He is known for the "We The People" campaign debuted during the 2017 Women's Marches worldwide. Fairey has painted more than 140 public murals, become one of the most sought-after and provocative artists globally, and changed the way people converse about art and view the urban landscape.