

MIA  
KARLOVA  
GALERIE

**Mia Karlova Galerie opens its new exhibition *Design Dilemma* during  
GLUE, Amsterdam's four-day celebration of design**

GLUE: 16-19 September 2021  
Exhibition: 16 September - 24 October 2021



*From Left: 'Diggin' the Dirt, Mouldy Magic & Heating Up' textile triptych by Femke van Gemert and 'Totem' stools by Vadim Kibardin © Yuta Sawamura; 'Lolly' chair by Vadim Kibardin © Vadim Kibardin; Mia Karlova Galerie 2021*

**Mia Karlova Galerie's** inaugural participation in GLUE is a new multi-designer gallery exhibition, ***Design Dilemma***, which investigates some of the most pressing challenges facing designers today. New works by **Vadim Kibardin, Femke van Gemert, Anton**

**Brunberg and Teun Zwets**, delving into the practice of reuse while interrogating the source of creativity will be on exhibit in the Amsterdam gallery from **16th September until 24th October 2021**.

Mia Karlova comments: *"United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports unprecedented changes to the global climate – some of which are irreversible. Heat waves, flash floods, wood fires and thousands of victims are all results of human influence leading to an exponentially warming climate. According to the report, the only way to prevent the worst scenarios is to start acting now in the most decisive way."*

Mia Karlova continues: *"We live in a world of over-production, over-consumption and heavy traveling. We have been engaged in fast fashion for decades; we are increasingly realising this and starting to recognise the necessity of changing our habits."*

*Design Dilemma* looks at how these issues translate into the design industry by asking the following questions. Should designers also bear some responsibility for their impact on the environment? How should designers reconcile between the desire to create with the responsibility of overloading the planet with new works? Should designers use alternative, sustainable materials or adopt an entire circular making system?



From Left: 'Land & Water II' textile piece by Femke van Gemert © Femke van Gemert; 'Beam' cabinet by Teun Zwets © Teun Zwets; Mia Karlova Galerie 2021

Mia Karlova Galerie's new exhibition features four international designers whose practices reveal ways in which this design dilemma can be resolved. In an effort to seek a balance between the urge to innovate and the need to preserve the planet's natural resources, designers are increasingly choosing to work with discarded materials, giving them a new breath of life.

### **Vadim Kibardin**

A pioneer of circular design, Vadim Kibardin has developed a construction method which utilises the underexploited properties of mundane packaging. Working predominantly with paper and cardboard waste as a sculptural medium, Vadim has created *Totem* stools. Alongside the *Totem* stools, a new, one-off *Lolly* chair - made solely of discarded packaging and designed exclusively for Mia Karlova Galerie - will premiere at the show.

### **Femke van Gemert**

Femke van Gemert unveils four new pieces at *Design Dilemma* exhibition, all made entirely of reused materials such as textile surplus, leftover paint and plastic waste. Examining some of the world's most vital issues, the Dutch artist's triptych *Diggin' the Dirt, Mouldy Magic & Heating Up* seeks to address our toxic relationship with social media while *Earthy Part 1* and *Land & Water II* celebrate the incredible resilience of nature and its perpetual renewal against adversity. An in-situ installation titled *Anthroposcenic* – a seemingly frail structure constructed from found debris and clothing remnants – will encourage visitors to reflect on how the human impact has altered the Earth's ecosystem.

### **Anton Brunberg**

Using salvaged wooden pallets, Anton Brunberg has created a new version of his acclaimed *Pallet Thief* piece especially for Mia Karlova Galerie. The Swedish designer taps into a widely accessible industrial supply to find his own material source, giving the humble, utilitarian and discarded items a second, more durable and elevated purpose.

### **Teun Zwets**

Design Academy Eindhoven graduate, Teun Zwets, focuses on the concept of usability rather than refinement, creating a new aesthetic that questions our throwaway culture. Made from reclaimed floor elements, his *Beam* cabinet, with its distinctive sculptural facade, is the perfect embodiment of circular design where waste is turned into an intricate and valued piece of furniture.

- ENDS -

## **Notes to Editors**

### **Press Contact**

Sameera Hanif – sameera@sameerahanif.com | +44 7817 175 724

Quitterie Vallet – quitterie@sameerahanif.com | +44 7749 104 859

### **Press Information**

*Design Dilemma* at Mia Karlova Galerie

Prinsengracht 510, Amsterdam 1017 KH

**GLUE:** Thursday 16 - Sunday 19 September

**Press Preview:** Thursday 16 September | 11am - 5pm

**Talk:** Thursday 16 September | 5 - 6pm

**Drinks Reception:** Thursday 16 September | 6 - 9pm

**Exhibition:** until 24 October

### **About Mia Karlova Galerie**

Mia Karlova Galerie gives centre stage to functional sculpture, rallying an intriguing roster of international artists whose experimental practices look upon reuse as a conscious act of new existence: sustainability enriched with a deliberate sense of meaning and the desire to provoke new emotions.

Founded in 2020 by interior designer and curator Mia Karlova, the eponymous Mia Karlova Galerie seeks to form a dialogue between works of various genres through a common emotional language.

*'Functional art is not just about shape, material or function. As any other art form, functional art is primarily about emotional connections. We surround ourselves with objects which give us pleasure of contemplation.'* ~ Mia Karlova

Having opened a physical outpost in Amsterdam, Mia Karlova Galerie enthusiastically explores the ever-evolving, cross-disciplinary possibilities of design and art.

[miakarlova.com](http://miakarlova.com) | [@miakarlovagalerie](https://www.instagram.com/miakarlovagalerie) | +31 20 370 3857