

Mia Karlova Galerie presents

“The Garden Within”

An exhibition which invites us to reflect on the balance between our inner world and external reality, and on how nature and art can serve as sources of renewal and regeneration.

28 May – 31 July 2025

Press Preview: Tuesday 27 May 2025 | 1 pm – 5 pm



Primal Awe Bench by Anna Kunst @ Mia Karlova Galerie 2025

Amsterdam-based Mia Karlova Galerie presents ‘The Garden Within’, a new multidisciplinary show introducing the works of Dutch and international artists Femke van Gemert, Anastasiya Pribelskaya, Jesse Visser, Valery Pchelin, Anna Kunst and Valeriya Isyak. Paper, glass, textile, stones, crystals, porcelain feathers: each of the works invites us to reflect on the balance between our inner world and the external reality, and on how nature and art can serve as sources of renewal and regeneration.

In the world of ongoing chaos, we are trapped in the endless avalanche of disturbing information. An escapism becomes the only survival strategy. We search for the way to slow down and to hear ourselves again. We seek to restore lost connections with the nature and the world around us. Open from 28 May until 31 July, The Garden Within invites the viewer to the inner garden, a place of solitude and renewal.

The objects presented in the gallery serve as a way into this secluded inner space, where each of us finds a way to restore our emotional calmness, hide away from the streams of constantly changing visual images and go to true us. The Garden Within is a meeting of artists and designers who communicate through the language of tactile sensations, textures, and biomorphic forms, bringing to life a deep connection with nature and its rhythms.

[Additional Information | The Garden Within](#)

Featured artists:

Anna Kunst. Primal Awe bench.

Anna Kunst is a new name and a guest artist in the gallery. She started her career in fashion. The fascination for textile techniques provide a foundation in the translations and vision of her contemporary designs. Anna lived on a floating house on Curaçao, disconnected from any modern facilities, where she developed a strong connection with nature, which became a guiding principle in her life. On Curaçao she missed a soul in many villa interiors, which is why she started to translate her deep connection with nature into interior design for luxury villas. During these projects she designed applied art objects, to deepen and realize her concepts. After moving to Ibiza, Anna designs unique objects of functional art, with her tactile and textured creations she invites us to re-value and re-connect with the earth, its animistic energy and ourselves.

‘That we have forgotten as human beings that nature is stronger than us and that we, ourselves are part of it. PRIMAL AWE is about a moment, a feeling that came over me during a hike, the admiration of the greatness of nature, and how insignificant we are. It brought me to the message to look at the earth in a different way, to rediscover its presence in our lives, where we are rooted in our existence.’ - Anna Kunst

Vadim Kibardin. Cardboard functional sculptures.



L Off-White chair and Black Nostalgia cardboard lamps by Vadim Kibardin @ Mia Karlova Galerie 2025

Prague-based Vadim Kibardin has been exploring the potential of paper furniture for over a decade, having developed his signature technique of crafting with discarded cardboard and paper. His designs express a tense dialogue between function and aesthetics where the rational and emotional collide to generate a burst of energy encapsulated within a single, functional work of art. The collection fuses functionality, comfort, and an unexpected sense of luxury – characteristics that have defined outstanding design for decades if not centuries.

His works are not new to the gallery’s audience. Having been earlier exhibited in group shows at CODA Apeldoorn and Utrecht Centraal Museum in the Netherlands, at the new show, Mia Karlova Galerie will unveil a one-of-a-kind ‘Off-White chair’ a sculptural object that embodies both fragility and strength, a metaphor for rebirth and a physical manifestation of space where renewal becomes possible. The exhibition will also feature new series of floor lamps, called ‘Black Nostalgia, where artist explores light as something precious and deeply significant. For him, light is a treasure to be protected from the outside world—something to be hidden away, preserved, and passed down like an heirloom. It becomes

a symbol of life itself: warm, soft, and comforting, akin to the hearth of a home.

He draws a poetic parallel to the image of a character shielding a candle from the wind in Andrei Tarkovsky's *Nostalgia* film—a gesture both fragile and defiant.

Throughout his practice, he consistently investigates the relationship between chaos and order, striving to hold both forces in tension. His aim is to achieve balance and harmony by embodying both in a single object.

Femke van Gemert, textile art works



'Me Clair Obscure' (left), "Female Flower" (right) by Femke van Gemert @ Mia Karlova Galerie 2025

Dutch textile artist Femke van Gemert continues to observe how overconsumption coupled with ecological unconsciousness leads to materials being discarded into nature. By using waste cut-offs of the textile waste Femke creates deep emotional wall pieces, reflecting on ecological, political and social contradictions. Lately van Gemert embraces the subject of inner transformation a certain age—a turbulent passage into a new level of awareness and self-understanding.

On show the gallery will present 'Me Clair obscure' – textile artwork created specially to the opening.

At the heart of this work lies a personal journey—one that acknowledges the presence of both darkness and light within us all. Femke believes that true growth requires moving through darkness: confronting personal demons, long-held pain, grief, and the patterns shaped by past wounds. It is only by facing these internal shadows that we can begin to transform them and ascend to a more conscious, lighter state of mind.

"There is no light without darkness," he reflects. "Without darkness, we would not even understand what light is." From this contrast, beauty emerges—just as flowers rise from dark soil, transformation is rooted in the unseen depths. This work becomes a visual and emotional expression of that journey.

Though the process of turning inward can be daunting, the artist invites the viewer to discover what lies beneath the surface: moments of softness, unexpected insight, and a quiet sense of healing. The piece is both a confrontation and a release, reflecting the spiritual and psychological pathways that open when we allow ourselves to go deeper.

Ultimately, it is about emergence—a growth that brings new perspectives, new connections, and a renewed sense of possibility. Through this work, van Gemert shares a deeply personal evolution, offering a space where others might also begin to see their own darkness not as an end, but as the beginning of something luminous.

Anastasiya Pribelskaya, glass wildflower compositions



Wildflower glass compositions by Anastasiya Pribelskaya @ Mia Karlova Galerie 2025

The wildflowers of the northern landscapes, meticulously crafted from glass by Anastasiya Pribelskaya, serve as an invitation to shift our habitual ways of seeing. Anastasiya is invited to join the gallery as a guest artist. Using the lampworking technique, she carefully shapes heated glass rods into delicately detailed petals and stems, capturing each fragile phase of a flower's life—from tightly furled bud to its eventual withering. The precision of her craftsmanship is matched by the sensitivity with which she observes the natural world.

In her work, the human is no longer the center of the universe. Instead, the focus moves toward elements of the ecosystem that are often overlooked or dismissed as background. Flora—so frequently reduced to mere decoration—takes the foreground, not as an object of passive admiration, but as an autonomous life form. Her flowers do not exist to be seen; they assert their own intrinsic value and presence, independent of human attention.

Through this shift in perspective, Pribelskaya raises quiet but profound questions about the place of humanity in the order of things. Her glass flowers become a poetic meditation on the essential, often invisible roles that non-human life plays in sustaining the universe.

Jesse Visser. Light functional sculptures



'Pulse Light' by Jesse Visser; Mia Karlova Galerie 2025 © Jesse Visser

Jesse Visser is an Amsterdam based designer creating functional and emotional design and light objects which were acknowledged with several international design awards.

With his new series *Pulse Light*, Jesse reflects on the concept of initiating movement—how a single physical action can trigger a chain of responses. Each gesture sets another into motion, forming a wave, a rhythm. Philosophically, the work delves into energy and the innate power of being—the idea that even the smallest impulse can influence the world around and bring about transformation, similar to the ‘butterfly effect’ famously illustrated by Ray Bradbury in ‘A sound of Thunder’.

Already well known, Jesse Visser’s *Beacon of Light* series is a sculptural piece consisting of a luminous sphere made from sanded glass, connected to a natural stone by a jute rope delicately hanging from a pulley – it is a comment on the fragile point of balance or fulcrum in a world of confusion and uncertainty. Jesse’s object is both a lighthouse and an anchor, encouraging serenity in its viewer through its form and content.

Valeria Isyak. Porcelain art works



'Affinity' by Valeria Isyak; Mia Karlova Galerie 2025

Valeriya Isyak is a Ukrainian born ceramic artist. She uses a unique process of assembling individual porcelain petals, creating artworks that merge delicate craftsmanship with profound artistic expression.

Each panel, composed of thousands of hand-shaped and coloured porcelain petals, forms a cohesive and captivating whole. This approach allows Isyak to infuse her artwork with depth and intricacy, going beyond the traditional boundaries of mosaic art.

Living and working in a urban environment, Isyak observes how the relentless pace of modern life fractures the individual. In her own experience, the constant drive to produce, achieve, and keep up has, at times, reduced her to a mechanical state—split into parts, exhausted, and detached. In this light, *Affinity* becomes a gesture of repair: an attempt to gather those fragments, to touch what has been neglected, and to begin again.

Valery Pchelin. Drifters. Sculptural series



'Drifter 13' and 'Drifter 10' sculptures; Valery Pchelin, Mia Karlova Galerie 2022 © Valery Pchelin

With the *Drifters*, Valery Pchelin seeks to give form to the idea of movement; his dynamic sculptures resemble living creatures, seemingly at battle with invisible resistance. These are extraordinary characters who are cast in a state of extreme emotion, wandering in search of and aspiring to reach a safe harbor – a moment of peace and serenity.

Born from an organic process led by improvisation, these intriguing sculptures are the result of the careful assembly of disparate wood elements. These figures are like solitary wanderers—fleeting, elusive, like the wind. They do not call us to follow, nor can we join them, yet they embody each of us, walking our own path, in search of meaning and inner grounding. Their impulse is not escape, but the need to remain in motion, to keep searching, to follow the horizon that never comes any closer. They are driven by a longing for peace—not one found externally, but one that emerges from within. The path toward the self lies in continuous movement and in a solitude that does not isolate but purify.

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Press Information

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Mia Karlova Galerie

Prinsengracht 510, O 1017KH Amsterdam

About Mia Karlova Galerie

Mia Karlova Galerie offers a curated collection of contemporary design and art, showcasing international artists who bring distinct concepts and exceptional craftsmanship to the world of collectible design. The gallery's close collaboration with artists spans the entire creative process, from initial sketches to the final placement of pieces in collections, establishing a shared aesthetic vision.

Founded in 2020 by interior architect and curator Mia Karlova, the Amsterdam-based gallery fosters dialogue between diverse genres through a shared emotional and poetic language. The gallery represents both established and emerging experimental design practices, producing collectible design, functional sculpture, and mixed media contemporary art that provoke new emotions and challenge traditional creative processes.

In recent years, Mia Karlova Galerie has participated in leading international fairs, including PAD Paris, PAD London, Collectible Brussels, PAN Amsterdam and Salon Art + Design New York .

About Curators

Marina Shirskaya is an art historian, independent curator and critic working on interdisciplinary projects at the intersection of contemporary art, design, and craft. She was the curator of the Arts& Crafts category Design Now (2022–25) She is a member of the Expert Council of the inaugural Sample Fair—a fair of collectible design held as part of the Blazar 2024 contemporary art fair and the invited lecturer in St. Petersburg State University.

Mia Karlova is an interior architect, collector, curator and a gallerist in the second generation. She curates gallery collection, championing sustainable and deliberate design practices, encouraging new dialogues and interdisciplinary exploration in contemporary art and design.

Since 2023 Mia Karlova has been a member of the steering committee of BAD+ in Bordeaux, a fair that celebrates the intersection of these two disciplines. In 2024 Mia was also recognized as one of GLUE's Creative Citizens of Honor, celebrating her outstanding contributions to the Amsterdam creative industry and her role in offering young talents a platform in the world of collectible design along with Pien Rademakers and Marcel Wanders.

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