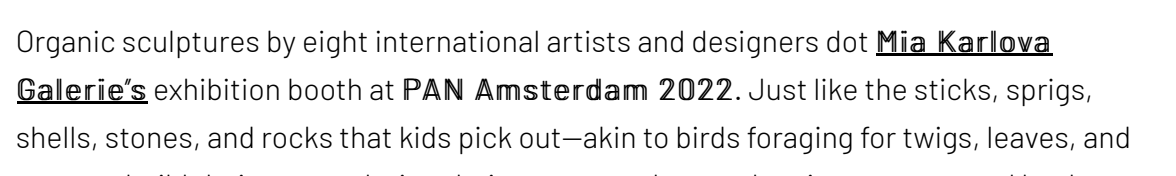
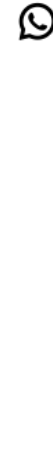




## Mia Karlova Galerie brings biomorphic sculptures and artworks to PAN Amsterdam

The eight featured artists, who experiment with an array of materials while ensuring that the raw materials are consciously acquired, colour the Netherlands art fair with collectible design, functional sculpture, and contemporary art.

by Almas Sadique  
Published on - Nov 26, 2022



Organic sculptures by eight international artists and designers dot **Mia Karlova Galerie's** exhibition booth at **PAN Amsterdam 2022**. Just like the sticks, sprigs, shells, stones, and rocks that kids pick out—akin to birds foraging for twigs, leaves, and grass to build their nests—during their scavenger hunts, the pieces presented by the **Amsterdam-based art gallery** at the fair resemble natural trinkets that can be transposed into bespoke objects for indoor spaces. The sculptures, expertly finished by hand, are raw and unvarnished in appearance, and hence, elicit an emotional response analogous to the reaction evoked by natural entities.



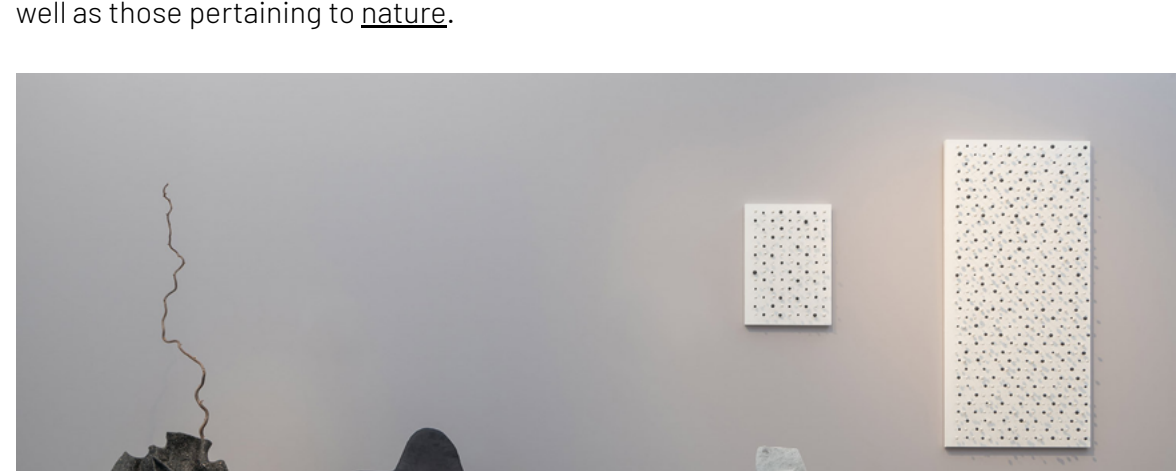
Sofa by Vadim Kibardin, sculptures by Voznicki and wall art by Jonne Stout  
Image: Courtesy of Mia Karlova Galerie

The artists platformed by the gallery at the design event in the **Netherlands** include Jesse Visser, Valery Pchelina, Olga Engel, Femke van Gemert, Vadim Kibardin, **Jan Ernst de Wet**, **Voznicki**, and Jonne Stout. Founded by **interior designer** and **curator** Mia Karlova in 2020, the eponymous gallery operates with the intent of platforming sculpture artists experimenting with salvaged materials to create functional objects that are sustainable. The gallery's selection of eight artists for the 35th edition of PAN Amsterdam adheres to this accreditation. "We bring collectible design and functional sculpture along with contemporary art to the wide audience of PAN Amsterdam. The collection on view includes eight artistic practices from six countries," says Mia Karlova.



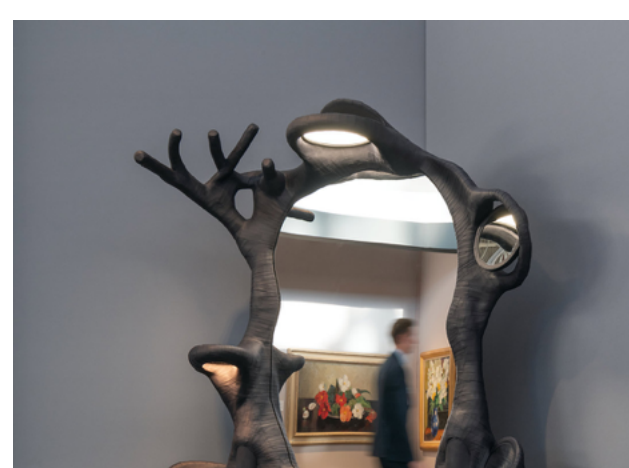
Works by the eight designers on display at the fair  
Image: Courtesy of Mia Karlova Galerie

Founded in 1987, PAN Amsterdam is an annual **art fair** that welcomes gallery owners, art dealers, and antique collectors to present sculptures, **paintings**, **art and design** works, jewellery, **furniture**, and objects that tell stories of various cultures and times. The 2022 iteration of the event hosts more than 110 international galleries and art dealers and is on display till November 27, 2022. Sitting in the midst of design and art creations by makers from across the globe, Mia Karlova Galerie's showcase at the fair harmoniously blends in with the myriad artistic creations. The works transmit soulful stories—both personal as well as those pertaining to **nature**.



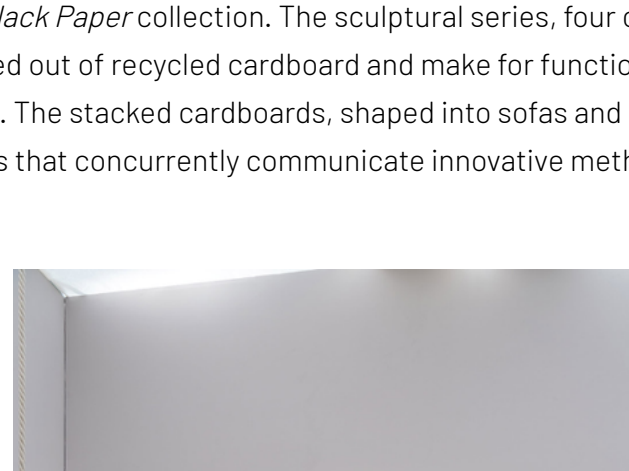
Sculptures on display at the gallery's booth  
Image: Courtesy of Mia Karlova Galerie

Karlova asserts, "Every work in the booth is a storyteller. As in **contemporary art**, **contemporary design** is not only about functionality and aesthetics, it is concept, an artistic reflection and a story to share. These stories reveal layers of deep meanings which would grant a different level of appreciation."



Vadim Kibardin's design on display  
Image: Courtesy of Mia Karlova Galerie

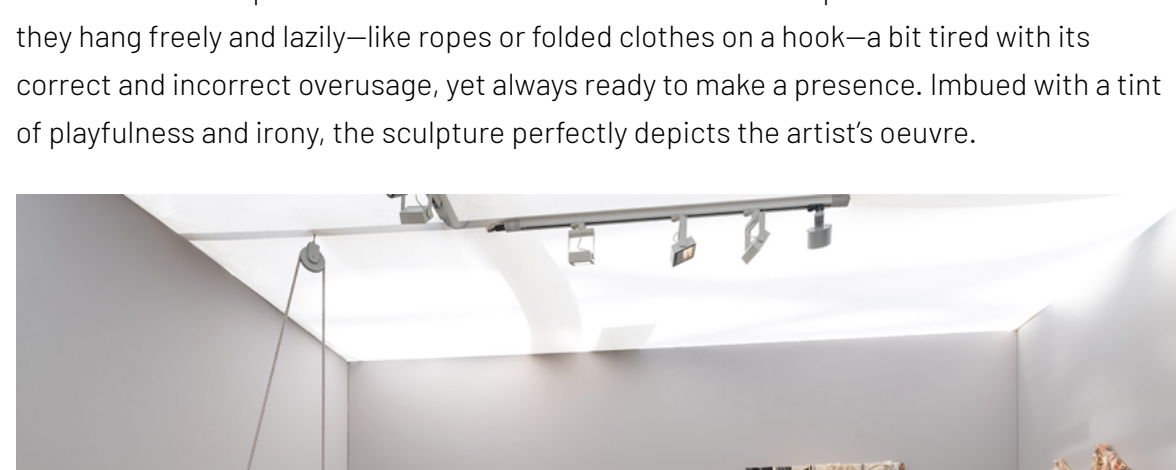
One of the presenters at the gallery's booth, Vadim Kibardin, a renowned **industrial designer**, artist, researcher, and craftsman from **Prague**, showcases his material-driven approach with his **Black Paper** collection. The sculptural series, four of which make a show at the fair, are crafted out of recycled cardboard and make for functional entities that can be used as furniture. The stacked cardboards, shaped into sofas and chairs by hand, make for aesthetic objects that concurrently communicate innovative methods of achieving **circular economy**.



Femke van Gemert's wall art and Vadim Kibardin's sofa  
Image: Courtesy of Mia Karlova Galerie

**Textile artist** Femke van Gemert's wall artworks address the subject of excessive waste production and its dissemination. Having worked in the **fashion** and **interior design** industry for several years, she eventually built her own practice, wherein she evaluates the tactility, texture, and beauty of discarded textiles, and turns them into art. Against the concerning consequences of fast fashion, her artworks make a mark with their aesthetics and messaging.

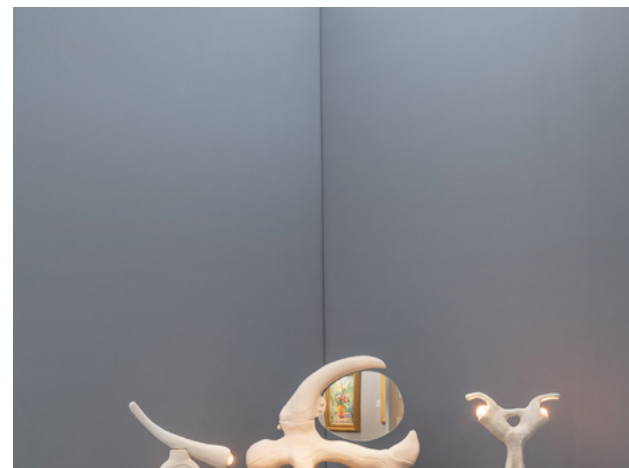
**French artist** Olga Engels' **LOVE** sculpture is a **minimalist** piece crafted out of metal and covered in marble powder. The letters of the word 'love' are shaped in such a manner that they hang freely and lazily—like ropes or folded clothes on a hook—a bit tired with its correct and incorrect overusage, yet always ready to make a presence. Imbued with a tint of playfulness and irony, the sculpture perfectly depicts the artist's oeuvre.



Jesse Visser's Beacon of Light illuminates sculptures at PAN Amsterdam  
Image: Courtesy of Mia Karlova Galerie

Straying away from natural and opaque objects, **product designer** and interior designer Jesse Visser's **Beacon of Light** is a literal translation of its name. A luminous sphere made out of sandblasted glass is held like a pendant light with the help of a **jute rope**, supported by a natural stone block. Employing the pulley system, Visser's **lighting design** induces a sense of calm and metaphorises the fragile, miniscule, and transient point of balance in this world of uncertainty.

Architect, **sculptor**, designer, and carpenter Valery Pchelina's **Drifters** is a unique experiment in wood. With **Drifters**, Pchelina aims to materialise the concept of motion. His dynamic sculptures resemble living beings that are ostensibly engaged in combat. The objects are a product of the meticulous construction and assembly of various wood components. The **Drifters** achieve their goal by opposing the carving process. They are a metaphor for resistance against the conflicts life presents us.



Jan Ernst's Flux sculptures at PAN Amsterdam  
Image: Courtesy of Mia Karlova Galerie

South African designer Jan Ernst de Wet's organic **ceramic** sculptures, on the other hand, serve as an ode to the beauty of the world and all its natural offerings. Much like his previous works, the **Flux** collection, comprising table lamps and a table mirror, too, are inspired by natural elements that dot **Cape Town**, particularly copepods.

Andriy and Olesya Voznicki of Voznicki, a Ukrainian design practice, present a series of sculptural vases made out of chamotte, terra-cotta, and white stoneware. Having relocated to Amsterdam recently in the wake of the Russo-Ukrainian War, their works are deeply evocative of the emotions and tactility associated with the place they source their materials from.



Sculptures by Voznicki and wall art by Jonne Stout  
Image: Courtesy of Mia Karlova Galerie

The eighth and last artist platformed by the Dutch gallery, Jonne Stout, presents a wall sculpture comprising ceramic needles fixed upon a white canvas. The **Dutch designer** works with ceramic to create experimental pieces that levitate with the help of vertical or horizontal supports and shadow the space around them differently, at different hours of the day.

Apart from presenting conscious and creative designs by an array of makers and artists, Mia Karlova Galerie also participated in the fair's talk programme PAN podium this year. During the event, held on November 25, 2022, Mia Karlova talked about design and creativity with design journalist Jeroen Junte and gallery owner and design expert Ad van den Bruinhorst.

*Mia Karlova Galerie presents the works of eight artists at PAN Amsterdam from November 20 to November 27, 2022.*

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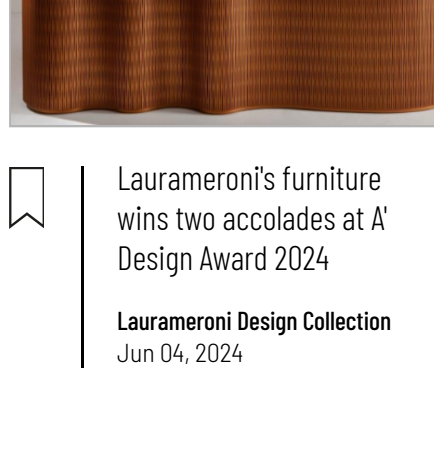
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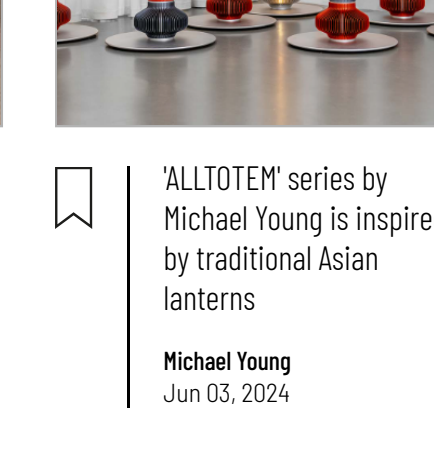
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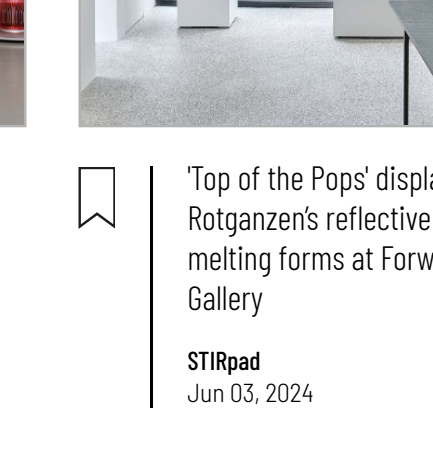
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