



MARIAWETTERGREN
GALERIE

INTO THE WOODS

Rasmus Fenhann
Benoît Fougeirol
Hanne Friis
Gjertrud Hals
Jakob Jørgensen
Astrid Krogh
Akiko Kuwahata
& Ken Winther
Mikko Paakkanen
Eske Rex
Beth Wyller



INTO THE WOODS

1 December 2023 - 24 February, 2024

The group show ***Into the Woods*** brings together the work of eleven contemporary artists and designers from Denmark, Norway, Finland, Japan and France around a collective inspiration of the forest, earth, nature and its territory. Working with different materials such as branches and leaves, wood, textiles, metal, ceramics and photography, each artist offers a poetic reflection on nature and its material, sensorial and spiritual dimensions. Let's take a walk in the woods...

L'exposition collective ***Into the Woods*** réunit le travail d'onze artistes et designers contemporains du Danemark, de Norvège, de Finlande, du Japon et de France autour d'une inspiration collective de la forêt, de la terre, de la nature et de son territoire. Travaillant des matériaux différents tels que les branches et les feuilles, le bois, le textile, le métal, la céramique et la photographie, chacun des artistes nous propose une réflexion poétique sur la nature et ses dimensions matérielles, sensorielles et spirituelles. Promenons-nous dans les bois...

LIST OF WORKS

Exhibition at Galerie Maria Wettergren, Paris
From 1 December 2023 through 24 February, 2024



HANNE FRIIS

b. 1972, Norway

In Hanne Friis' sculptures, what begins delicately with tightly stitched masses of pleats and fold, explodes suddenly into pockets and flourishes of organic forms, breathing out of the textile's restrained folds. The densities in the textiles bear witness to the actual process of creating something, an in-depth study, and association with the cyclic processes of nature.

Hanne Friis does not imitate the laws and biological systems of nature, but instead seems to touch on its primal

forms in a wild yet controlled expressive interpretation. This is a form of art where there is an unmistakable presence of the hand. At the same time, the works give the impression of denying the centrality of handicraft. It is as if Hanne Friis, via the engagement of the hands, also has set the works free – they are what they are single-handedly. It is precisely that characteristic that contributes to their giving a palpable impression of being living organisms.

Before specializing in textile art, Hanne Friis studied sculpture and painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Trondheim between 1992 and 1996. Pioneer in Norwegian contemporary textile art, Hanne Friis has exhibited worldwide, including a major solo exhibition at **the Vigeland Museum, Oslo, Norway** in October 2022. Her works are included in several important public and private collections, including **the National Museum of Art, Oslo, Norway; National Museum of Decorative Arts, Trondheim, Norway; Haugar Kunstmuseum, Tønsberg, Norway; West Norway Museum of Decorative Arts, Bergen, Norway** and **the Norwegian Parliament, Oslo, Norway**.



HANNE FRIIS

The Juice from the Trees II

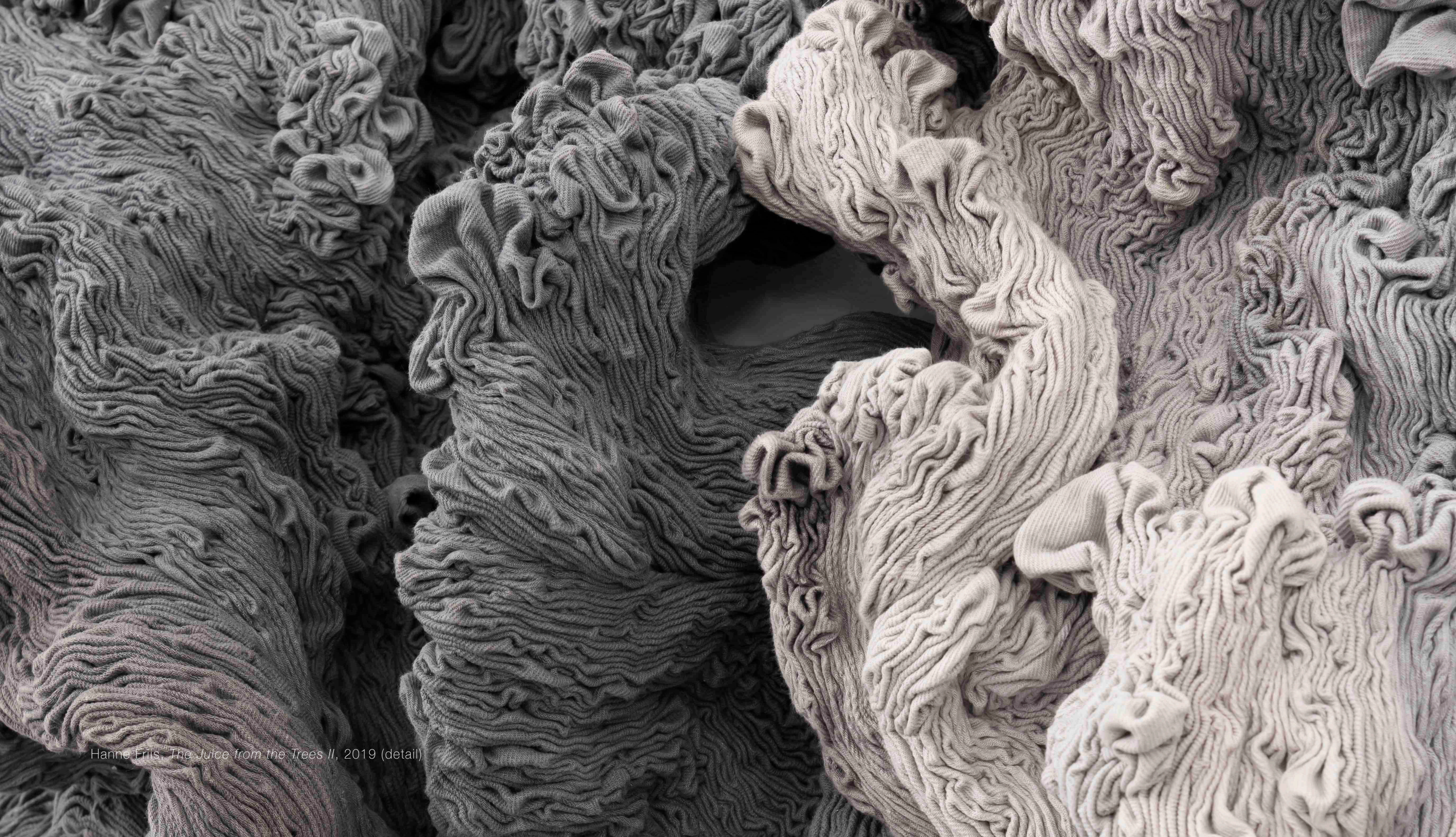
2019

Canvas dyed by oak acorn and iron
mordant, handsewn

95 x 30 x 250 cm

Unique piece





Hanne Eriis, *The Juice from the Trees II*, 2019 (detail)



RASMUS FENHANN

b. 1972, Denmark

Creating designs with an equal focus on sculptural and functional qualities, Rasmus Fenhann's works are made in carefully selected natural materials, especially wood. He is considered as one of the most important Scandinavian designers today in the field of handmade art design. His working processes combines traditional, sometimes near-forgotten craft techniques with advanced high-tech procedures, including computer-based sketching and visualization. His painstakingly precise treatment of wood surfaces, ending up in a velvet-like, soft

finish and with invisible joints, is the result of an extraordinary effort, which is both mental and physical. It is exquisite craftsmanship, close to the obsessive. In the words of the artist, *"It has to do with being able to zoom in, infinitely... There mustn't be any flaws, not even the tiniest, in the delicate woodwork. Time is key, and infinite repetition is expected until a level of breathtaking perfection is reached."*

Rasmus Fenhann has a double education from the Danish Royal Academy of Art and Design, Furniture Department 1997-2003, and as a Cabinetmaker 1991-1996.

He has frequently exhibited in Japan, Europe and in the United States, and his works are part of important private and public collections including the permanent collection of **the Designmuseum Danmark, Copenhagen, Denmark**. Rasmus Fenhann has received several Prizes and awards such as **the Danish Arts and Crafts Silver Medal**, 2004; **the Finn Juhl Prize**, 2016 and most recently, **the Inga & Ejvind Kold Christensen Prize** in 2022.



RASMUS FENHANN
Naguri
2023
Mahogany
180 x 27 x 44 cm
Limited edition of 3





Rasmus Fenhann, *Naguri*, 2023 (detail)



GJERTRUD HALS

b. 1948, Norway

Gjertrud Hals is one of the redefining figures of textile art, liberating fiber from the loom and displaying it in space as three-dimensional sculpture. Hals' upbringing on the little island of Finnøya is profoundly anchored in her art and her relationship to the region's nature and culture is deep and complex.

Hals' works seem to possess their own laws and logics, moving somewhere between delicate neatness and unrestrained inspiration. In the words of the artist, they propose a reflection "*...on the relationship between nature and culture, in which*

the lives of modern humans are moving between chaos and order. Forces of nature and war create chaos, after which a new order is elaborated, always both the same and a little bit different than the previous."

Gjertrud Hals focuses on natural fibers that she transforms through various techniques including weaving, knitting, casting, spraying and cutting. Trained in the art of tapestry weaving in the 1970's, Hals' interest in feminism and women's culture associates her with the new wave of women artists exploring the sculptural potential of textile.

Hals' works have been acquired by private and public collections, such as **the Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; National Museum of Contemporary Art, Oslo, Norway; The Museum of Contemporary Crafts, New York, USA; The Museum of Decorative Arts, Lausanne, Switzerland; Mobilier National / Les Gobelins, Paris, France** and **the Bellerive Museum, Zürich, Switzerland.**





GJERTRUD HALS
Irmin
2011
Metal thread, fabric, thread, fiber
Variable dimensions
Unique piece



Gjertrud Hals, *Irmin*, 2011 (detail)

GJERTRUD HALS

Urd I

2008

Twigs, thread, paper pulp

Ø120 x 30 cm

Unique piece





Gjertrud Hals, *Urd I*, 2008 (exhibition view)



GJERTRUD HALS

Vedbju

2008

Linen thread, dyed beard lichen

135 x 230 cm

Unique piece



Gjertrud Hals, *Vedbjø*, 2008 (detail)

GJERTRUD HALS

ISE 1

2022

Cotton and abaca fibers, pigment, lace
fragments, linen and silk thread

74 x 59 x 2 cm

Unique piece





GJERTRUD HALS

ISE 2

2022

Cotton and abaca fibers, pigment, lace
fragments, linen and silk thread

74 x 59 x 2 cm

Unique piece



Gjertrud Hals, *ISE*, 2022 (detail)



ESKE REX

b. 1977, Denmark

Eske Rex's works are carried both by a conceptual idea and by the materials and the craftsmanship. They examine the effects of force caused by tension between materials and space, in which they are overextended, stretched, split and placed on the verge of collapse. There are no stated explanations – all transfer of information happens on an aesthetic and sensuous level. The traces of craft and the attention to materials sensuously combine the tangible and near with metaphysical, essential and universal matters. Simple and stylistic,

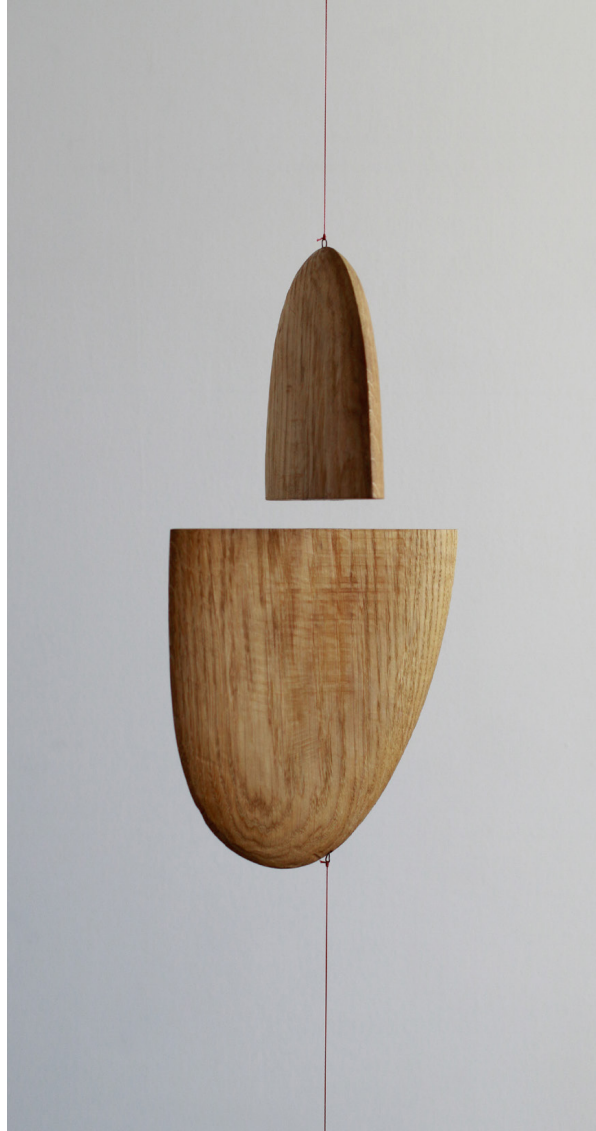
they are cleaned and processed of excess elements in order to concentrate on experiencing the materials of which the works are made. For the same reason they give what can be referred to as a found poetic silence in their presence.

In 2010, Eske Rex received **the Danish Arts Foundation's working grant** and took part in the exhibition **'Designers Investigating'** in Øksnehallen, which won an award from **the Danish Arts Foundation**. In 2011, he took part in **MINDCRAFT11 in Milan** and exhibited at **the Triennale Design Museum**, also in Milan, Italy. Eske Rex' works have been exhibited worldwide, including **21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanasawa Japan; Den Frie, Copenhagen, Denmark; Verbeke Foundation, Belgium; MINDCRAFT 17, Milan, Italy; Chart Fair, Copenhagen, Denmark** (Galerie Maria Wettergren). In 2015, Eske Rex created a monumental site-specific installation for the International Criminal Court in the Hague, Netherlands.





ESKE REX
Divided Self XII
2017
Oak, leash, magnets
31 x 19 x 3 cm
Unique piece



ESKE REX
Book IV
2019
Steam bent oak
111 x 18 x 10 cm
Unique piece





Eske Rex, *Book IV*, 2019 (detail)



ESKE REX
Untitled. Divided Circle
2018
Pine
38 x 38 x 4,5 cm
Unique piece



JACOB JØRGENSEN

b. 1977, Denmark

The Danish artist and designer Jakob Jørgensen aims for objects with a strong, sculptural expression. In his design he strives to create an expression that possesses the same depth as a work of art but which also fits naturally into everyday life as a functional object. Jørgensen's large-scale sculptures and lightings in iron are truly impressive, and their physical impact is challenging both for the artist, while making them, and for the spectator. The tube sculptures are interesting in that when the cylinder, which is a geometric basic form, is

deformed, all possible organic forms start occurring, such as tree buds or the shape it makes when it gets a sore in the bark and starts to encapsulate the wound.

Jakob Jørgensen graduated from the furniture design department of the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in 2008. He has exhibited his design pieces around the world, such as at **the Mindcraft exhibition in Milan**, and at **the 21st Museum of Contemporary Art in Kanazawa in Japan**. Moreover, Jakob received a **Wallpaper Design Award** for his dresser *Fjarill* in 2012, and in 2008 he placed first at **IFDA in Japan**. Jakob Jørgensen received the **Finn Juhl prize 2015** together with Line Depping, his partner in life. In 2011 he received **the Bodum Design Award**, also together with Line Depping; in connection with this award, Jørgensen exhibited at **Louisiana Museum of Modern Art**.



JAKOB JØRGENSEN
Panca
2022
Steel tube, stone
ca. 200 x 30 x 37 cm
Limited edition of 5





Jakob Jørgensen, *Panca*, 2023 (detail)



MIKKO PAAKKANEN

b. 1975, Finland

Finnish designer, Mikko Paakkanen, studied carpentry before deciding to pursue his interest in design and innovative manufacturing methods. In his work, Paakkanen uses his perspective as both carpenter and designer to make creative work that honors classic craftsmanship. Paakkanen completed a master's degree at the University of Art and Design Helsinki in 1998, where he returned years later to teach. Working as a freelance designer since 1998, he founded his own design firm, Studio Paakkanen. He has designed products

for well-known brands such as *Nikari* and *Avarte*, and has also worked as an interior architect and set designer for art projects and music videos.

Mikko Paakkanen has received many awards and grants for his work, including **the Finnish Cultural Foundation grant**; **the Muoto 2011 Award**, and **the Fennia Prize from the Design Forum Finland**. Paakkanen's works are housed in numerous museum collections, including **the Cooper Hewitt Museum, New York, USA**; **Die Neue Sammlung, Munich, Germany**; **Röhrska Museet, Göteborg, Sweden**; **Designmuseo, Helsinki, Finland** and **Wakita Museum, Nagano, Japan**.



MIKKO PAAKKANEN

Big Stool

2012

Solid oak

Ø42 x 82 cm

Limited edition of 12 unique pieces





Mikko Paakkanen, *Big Stool*, 2012 (detail)



MIKKO PAAKKANEN
Kasane
2014
Solid pine, black ink
25 x 30 x 82 cm
Limited edition of 12

MIKKO PAAKKANEN
Dakko
2014
Solid pine, black ink
26 x 30 x 82 cm
Limited edition of 12



AKIKO KUWAHATA & KEN WINTHER

b. 1976, Japan

b. 1973, Denmark

Akiko Kuwahata, born in Japan in 1976, graduated in 1999 from the College of Art at the Nihon University, Japan. She worked as a cabinetmaker at Hinoki Kogei Ltd in Japan (1999 - 2003) and studied Furniture and Interior Design at the School of Architecture in Aarhus, Denmark (2004 - 2005). In 2010, Kuwahata opened her own design studio together with Ken Winther, with whom she has been creating design objects ever since. In parallel, she worked part

time at PP Møbler from 2013 to 2020, where she was able to gain a greater understanding of Danish design.

Ken Winther, born in Denmark in 1973, was trained as a cabinetmaker at PP Møbler (1991 - 1995), where he later worked from 1998 to 2021. In 2010, he established his own design studio, Akiko Ken Made, together with Akiko Kuwahata. He simultaneously studied Japanese woodworking and worked as a cabinetmaker at Hinoki Kogei Ltd in Japan.

Kuwahata and Winther were awarded **the Arts and Crafts Prize of 1897** in 2016 and **the Danish Craft and Art Association Prize** in 2017. Their works have been exhibited in Denmark and internationally, including at **the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan; MINDCRAFT 15 and MINDCRAFT 16, Milan, Italy; The Salon: Art + Design, New York, USA; PAD London, UK; Design Miami/Basel, Switzerland, and TEFAP New York, USA.**





AKIKO KUWAHATA & KEN WINTHER
Tram, Green
2015
Oak, dyed birch
80 x 26 x 53,5 cm
Limited edition of 12



Akiko Kuwahata & Ken Winther, *Tram, Green*, 2015

AKIKO KUWAHATA & KEN WINTHER
Picnic for 2
2017
Cherry, dyed cork, japanese cord
45 x 32 x 10,5 cm
Limited edition of 12





Akiko Kuwahata & Ken Winther,
Picnic for 2, 2017 (exhibition view)



AKIKO KUWAHATA & KEN WINTHER
Trælys 1
2019
Birch
Ø19 x 16,5 cm
Unique piece

AKIKO KUWAHATA & KEN WINTHER

Trælys 2

2019

Birch

Ø24 x 16,5 cm

Unique piece





AKIKO KUWAHATA & KEN WINTHER
Trælys 3
2019
Birch
Ø18 x 17,5 cm
Unique piece

Akiko Kuwahata & Ken Winther, *Trælys lamps*, 2019 (exhibition view)





ASTRID KROGH

b. 1968, Denmark

Astrid Krogh is working at the intersection between art, architecture and design. Born in Denmark in 1968, Krogh graduated from the textile faculty at The Danish Design School in 1997 and established her own studio the following year, where she started using optical fibers to create woven textiles, thereby weaving with light itself. Krogh's point of departure from conventional textile design was not merely her fascination with light but also her attraction to shape-morphing objects and shifting colorways, "*I use light as both a material and a technology*", Krogh explains. Few artists speak a refined

language as fluently as Astrid Krogh, who uses light to describe aspects of Nature that words simply cannot. Her vocabulary is nuanced by sensory experiences, which are articulated through a lexicon of color and light.

Astrid Krogh's works are included in important museum collections, such as **the Designmuseum Danmark** and **the 21C Museum International Contemporary Art Foundation, USA**. She has carried out monumental light installations and site-specific commissions for private and public collections, such as **the 21C Museum International Contemporary Art Foundation, Cincinnati, USA**; **Longchamp Flagship store, Paris, France**; **Danish University Center, Beijing, China**; **Maersk building, Copenhagen, Denmark**; and **Danish Parliament, Copenhagen, Denmark**.

Krogh's works are published in important books about contemporary textiles, architecture and design and the artist has won several prizes, including **the Thorvald Bingesboell Medal**, **the Inga & Ejvind Kold Christensen Prize**, **the Annual Honorary Grant of the National Bank of Denmark**, **the Finn Juhl Architecture Prize** and **the CODA Award**.



ASTRID KROGH
Neon Flower
2007
Neon, metal
88 x 78 x 7 cm
Limited edition of 8





BETH WYLLER

b. 1947, Norway

Born in Oslo in 1947, and graduated from the National Academy of Fine Art, Oslo, Norway in 1975, followed by the National Academy of Fine Art, Oslo, Norway in 1980, Beth Wyller is considered as one of the most important living ceramists from Norway.

In the words of the artist "I work with clay. A strong interest in my work is to pursue how small displacements and changes affect the artistic expression. My work moves between image, sculpture and usage. I work with expressions and

stories that have anchoring in ceramic traditions. Earthenware as material carries out all-round associations from the history of ceramics, which become part of the artistic language."

Her handmade, unique ceramic pieces are part of important Norwegian museum collections such as **The Museum of Decorative Arts and Design, Oslo**; **The National Museum of Decorative Arts and Design, Trondheim**, and **the West Norway Museum of Decorative Art, Bergen**.

Beth Wyller has received several awards and prizes, including **the Special Prize, WOCEF, Korea** (2003 and 2007); **The City of Oslo Culture Award** (2003) and **the Arts and Crafts Award, Norway** (1996) and her work is represented in all the major Norwegian museums.



BETH WYLLER

White Shards

1999

Earthenware with broken plates, glaze

Ø53 x 72 cm

Unique piece





Beth Wyller, *White Shards*, 1999 (detail)



BENOÎT FOUGEIROL

b. 1962, France

In Benoît Fougeirol's photographs, in the midst of the abandonment, something imposes itself, becomes alive, despite the emptiness... "Landscapes of ruins, or ruins of landscape" to borrow Jean-Paul Robert's poetic term, Benoit Fougeirol's photographic works raise the question of the boundaries between architecture and nature, civilization and abandonment, myth and reality. Desolate, abandoned architectures, yet with a vibrant presence. A lot of wild vegetation too, thriving and exploding everywhere, freely.

Without the slightest theatricality, and

with great sobriety and mastery, Benoît Fougeirol lets us glimpse the possibility of a new living order of things, even, and perhaps especially, of the most forgotten things.

Born in 1962, photographer and artist Benoît Fougeirol lives and works in and around Paris. For some years now he has been exploring the uncertain zones of the city limits, collecting images. At once topographic and poetic, his approach captures the unsuspected, silent wealth of this space where greenery meets asphalt. The results can be seen in the book *AUTOUR / AROUND* (éditions vmcf, 2010). Since then, he has concentrated on the so-called "sensitive" areas of the city. He has undertaken a methodical inventory of these territories whose reality exceeds or belies the simple clichés pasted over it. His works are part of numerous private and public collections, including the **Musée Reina Sofia in Madrid, Spain**; the **New York Public Library, USA**; **Musée Carnavalet in Paris, France** and the **Bibliothèque Nationale de France**.





BENOÎT FOUGEIROL
Aulnay sous Bois
2006
Silverprint photography
80 x 120 cm
Limited edition of 8