

GAGOSIAN



MARC NEWSON

Opening reception: Thursday, May 23, 6–8pm
May 23–July 27, 2019
7/F Pedder Building, 12 Pedder Street, Central, Hong Kong

Marc Newson, *Cloisonné Black Blossom Lounge*, 2017, cloisonné enamel and copper, 30 × 69 3/4 × 30 3/4 inches (76 × 177 × 78 cm) © Marc Newson. Photo: Xiangzhe Kong

May 20, 2019

I'm always looking for processes and techniques that are completely anachronistic. I love recontextualizing these things in a modern time.

—Marc Newson

Gagosian is pleased to present new works by designer Marc Newson. This is Newson's first exhibition of limited-edition furniture in China.

From the outset of his singular career, Newson has pursued parallel activities in limited and mass production of functional design objects. With inspirations ranging from popular culture to traditional crafts from around the world, he approaches design as both an exploratory technical exercise and a process of conceptual, aesthetic, and physical refinement. Employing sculptural principles to address issues of efficiency, luxury, and use value, Newson has produced a broad array of highly crafted objects—watches, footwear, luggage, furniture, transport—upholding the principle that engineering and aesthetics are inseparable.

Revisiting his roots as a jeweler and silversmith, in this exhibition Newson explores increasingly rare decorative processes at an unconventionally large, even unprecedented, scale. He has long been drawn to the streamlined, simple beauty of Asian art and design: from his Aikuchi swords

made in the renowned Tōhoku region of Japan to, most recently, his furniture created using the ancient technique of Chinese cloisonné—an enameling technique that originated in the eastern Mediterranean more than three thousand years ago and spread to China around the fourteenth century.

Although this intricate process is typically used for jewelry, figurines, and vases, Newson oversaw the construction of a massive new kiln in a cloisonné factory outside Beijing that would allow for multiple firings of desks, chairs, and lounges. Blurring the boundaries between sculpture, furniture, and the decorative arts, the resulting works are like jewels expanded to the full scale of the body. They feature Newson’s signature “orgone” pattern, as well as interpretations of traditional Chinese floral motifs, such as large magnolias on a white ground, or cherry blossom branches set against opaque black enamel.

The exhibition also includes a selection of Newson’s cast glass chairs. Made in the Czech Republic, these are continuous symmetrical forms comprised of two hollow quarter-spheres. The boldly colored upper halves rest on clear bases, which absorb some of the reflected hues in their clouded interiors, an effect that subtly changes depending on the vantage point. Because both glass and enamel are extremely precarious materials, Newson’s new furniture defies physical odds, necessitating years of experimentation and refinement. However, despite the intensive labor and research involved, the works appear as seamless, polished units—simple forms carrying complex histories of labor, craft, and beauty.

Marc Newson was born in 1963 in Sydney. He has lived and worked in Sydney, Tokyo, and Paris, and presently resides in London, where his company, Marc Newson Limited, is based. He has had ongoing relationships with companies such as Apple, Louis Vuitton, Montblanc, Hermès, Nike, Hennessy, Dom Pérignon, Jaeger-LeCoultre, and Beretta; and his designs have spanned diverse sectors including technology, yachts, aerospace, fashion, and luxury goods. Collections include the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris; Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany; Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, Netherlands; Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Powerhouse Museum, Sydney; and National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia. Solo exhibitions include *Design Works*, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney (2001); Groninger Museum, Groningen, Netherlands (2004); Design Museum, London (2004); and *At Home*, Philadelphia Museum of Art (2013).

Newson was recently appointed chair of the International Design Council at the Design Museum, London, is a Royal Designer for Industry, and in 2012 was awarded a CBE—Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire—by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

#MarcNewson

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