

NURIEV | DENIM HOUSE
LAFORÊT | VARIATIONS
MESTRES | FAMILY BUSINESS

LOS ANGELES | 20 SEPTEMBER

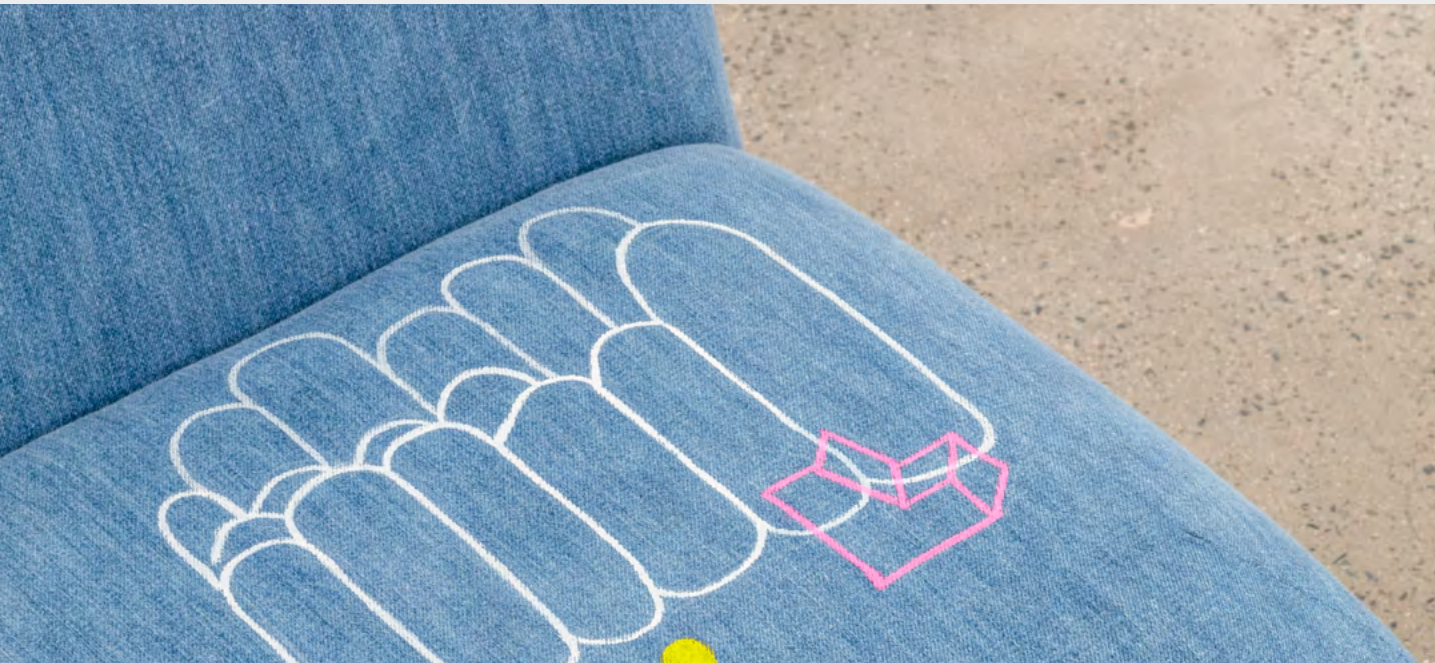


Harry Nuriev, Léa Mestres and Martin Laforêt present concurrent solo shows at Carpenters Workshop Gallery Los Angeles, entitled *Denim House*, *Family Business* and *Variations* respectively. Although presented separately, the exhibitions provide a cohesive look at the talents of the three artists currently defining the next generation of contemporary art.

Harry Nuriev's *Denim House* presents a total environment that merges a luxurious lifestyle with function and expression. *Denim House* realizes Nuriev's dreams of an idealized family room, set within the domestic culture the artist sees as particular to Los Angeles. Following his previous show *Denim*, he has dived deeper into the nuances of denim as a statement material, and has embellished the artworks for this exhibition with hand-embroidered writing, additional stickers, and extra furnishings such as the new dining tablecloth. The artist is a pioneer of transformism, a manifesto that overlaps aspects of fashion, art and architecture simultaneously. Through this collection, Nuriev intends to enable the same levels of personal expression as seen in street fashion within a home environment.

A selection of Martin Laforêt's new artworks from his *Variations* collection are exhibited in this show, *Variations*. The colorful and unique artworks pay homage to the levity and charisma he conjures from concrete, his material of choice. Laforêt's methodological means of assembling purified structures from 'poor' materials such as concrete or lumber aligns him with the principles of Arte Povera. Laforêt considers his creative gesture as more important than the final objective artwork, elevating humble materials beyond sight of their origins.

To stand among Léa Mestres' outsized sculptures is to journey through the looking glass and enter a world of the French artist's colorful imagination. Her show *Family Business* is reminiscent of Carsten Holler's rooms filled with giant mushrooms, or Nikki de Saint Phalle's iconic Tarot Garden in Italy. Mestres draws from a wide range of popular culture, from the absolute pink of fashion designer Valentino to rapper Missy Elliot's music videos, condensing this vivid imagery into the textured columns of her sculptures which also reference crépi, a rough concrete plaster ubiquitous across France and Europe. Highly research driven, Mestres counters notions of 'feminine art', ignoring expectations, re-appropriating stereotypes and prioritizing joy in her work at all costs. Named after friends of hers, Mestres' three towering artworks *Stacy*, *Suzy* and *Jessy* are all personified as larger-than-life characters.





HARRY NURIEV | DENIM HOUSE

HARRY NURIEV

[→](#) VIEW ONLINE

DENIM POOL BED
2022

Casing Material, Denim Upholstery
63 x 345 x 345 cm
24 3/4 x 135 7/8 x 135 7/8 in
Edition of 8 plus 4 AP

Central to Harry Nuriev’s *Denim House* is the artist’s vision for immersion in a new world. He designed this Pool Bed as a functional extension of its users, a multivalent space where one can eat, work, rest or play. The total environment is able to immediately satisfy any of our domestic needs, with no interruption when moving from one activity to another.

Harry Nuriev believes our interior, domestic lives should be extensions of our personality in the same way our external, expressive daily outfits are. The artworks throughout *Denim House* can be moved and layered, just like denim jeans, jackets and shirts. In ceding control of his artworks to his audience and allowing them the same creative choices in personalizing their environments as they already do in their outfits, Nuriev understands that customization is the most potent form of expression.





HARRY NURIEV

[→](#) VIEW ONLINE

DENIM BOX M4
2022

Casing Material, Denim Upholstery
63 x 115 x 54.5 cm
24 3/4 x 45 1/4 x 21 1/2 in



HARRY NURIEV

[→](#) VIEW ONLINE

DENIM BOX M5
2022

Casing Material, Denim Upholstery
63 x 115 x 54.5 cm
24 3/4 x 45 1/4 x 21 1/2 in



HARRY NURIEV

DENIM BOX M2
2022

Casing Material, Denim Upholstery
63 x 115 x 54.5 cm
24 3/4 x 45 1/4 x 21 1/2 in



[→](#) VIEW ONLINE

HARRY NURIEV

DENIM BOX M6
2022

Casing Material, Denim Upholstery
63 x 115 x 54.5 cm
24 3/4 x 45 1/4 x 21 1/2 in



[→](#) VIEW ONLINE

HARRY NURIEV

[→](#) VIEW ONLINE

DENIM BOX M3
STOOL
2022

Casing Material, Denim Upholstery
63 x 115 x 54.5 cm
24 3/4 x 45 1/4 x 21 1/2 in



HARRY NURIEV

[→](#) VIEW ONLINE

DENIM BOX M7
2022

Casing Material, Denim Upholstery
63 x 115 x 54.5 cm
24 3/4 x 45 1/4 x 21 1/2 in



HARRY NURIEV

[→](#) VIEW ONLINE

DENIM MIRROR
2022

Casing Material, Mirror,
Denim Upholstery
190 x 92.5 x 22.5 cm
74 3/4 x 36 3/8 x 8 7/8 in

Harry Nuriev is a designer who is known for his commitment to environmental sustainability. The denim used across *Denim House* is made from either organic cotton or recycled fibers, aligning with the artist's focus on creating designs that have a minimal impact on the environment. The ability to choose how one impacts their environment is a vital factor in Nuriev's designs from start to finish, as seen in the ways he promotes his idea of transformism. The artist hopes he can provide a template for others to consider their surroundings more intimately, from global supply chains to personal choices on a domestic level.



HARRY NURIEV

[→](#) VIEW ONLINE

DENIM SMALL MIRROR
2022

Casing Material, Mirror,
Denim upholstery
90 x 90 x 22.5 cm
35 3/8 x 35 3/8 x 8 7/8 in

Denim is a fabric closely related to the concept of the 'American Dream', and Harry Nuriev explores this symbolism in his ultra-contemporary series. The fabric's vaunted position within both the haute-fashion world as well as everyday society has been a true inspiration to the artist, who often mixes influences from middle American fashion with the luxuries of a global elite. The artist positions his artworks between the worlds of art and fashion, continually translating influences from one to the other.



HARRY NURIEV

[→](#) VIEW ONLINE

GRAND DINING TABLE
12 STOOLS
2022

Casing Material, Denim Upholstery,
Removable Plastic Cover
79 x 225 x 225 cm
31 1/8 x 88 5/8 x 88 5/8 in

Harry Nuriev's *Denim House* is an alternate world completely rendered in denim fabric. Beneath their denim skin, Nuriev's minimal forms are beguiling, occupying a unique space at the center of art, design and fashion. This dining environment is a centerpiece within the exhibition, demonstrating the magnitude at which the modular artworks of *Denim House* can operate when combined.





HARRY NURIEV

[→ VIEW ONLINE](#)

CHAIR 4
2022

Casing Material, Denim Upholstery
74 x 53 x 57 cm
29 1/8 x 20 7/8 x 22 1/2 in

The exhibition *Denim House* was conceived as a modular system, composed of several dissociated and interchangeable elements that together form a matrix, and allows a user to rearrange the pieces in line with their needs or mood. The interchangeability of Harry Nuriev's artworks was born from his realization that there is a lack of personalization through design history, whereas the fashion industry is centered around daily individual choice. In the same way he dresses himself, Nuriev intended to create an environment he could also dress as he saw fit.



HARRY NURIEV

[→ VIEW ONLINE](#)

CHAIR 1
2022

Casing Material, Denim Upholstery
74 x 53 x 57 cm
29 1/8 x 20 7/8 x 22 1/2 in



HARRY NURIEV

[→ VIEW ONLINE](#)

CHAIR 2
2022

Casing Material, Denim Upholstery
74 x 53 x 57 cm
29 1/8 x 20 7/8 x 22 1/2 in

This simple work covered in denim fabric is emblematic of artist Harry Nuriev's idea of transformism, a manifesto that reinterprets the beauty of everyday objects while also encouraging environments adapted to individual lifestyles. The exhibition *Denim House* was conceived as a modular system, composed of several dissociated and interchangeable elements that together form a matrix, and allows a user to rearrange the pieces in line with their needs or mood.



HARRY NURIEV

[→ VIEW ONLINE](#)

CHAIR 3
2022

Casing Material, Denim Upholstery
74 x 53 x 57 cm
29 1/8 x 20 7/8 x 22 1/2 in

Harry Nuriev uses the compact structures of his *Denim House* artworks as templates which he can transform in any direction. Different functions are iterated through plastic additions or subtle changes in form, or are augmented with stickers and embroidered badges by the artist. The effect underlines Nuriev's intentions to create ultimately personalized artworks, reflecting the personality of their owner back at them.



HARRY NURIEV

[→ VIEW ONLINE](#)

CHAIR WITH METAL BASE
2022

Casing Material, Metal Base,
Denim Upholstery
60 x 55 x 57 cm
23 5/8 x 21 5/8 x 22 1/2 in

Harry Nuriev believes our interior, domestic lives should be extensions of our personality in the same way our external, expressive daily outfits are. The artworks throughout *Denim House* can be moved and layered, just like denim jeans, jackets and shirts. In ceding control of his artworks to his audience and allowing them the same creative choices in personalizing their environments as they already do in their outfits, Nuriev understands that customization is the most potent form of expression.

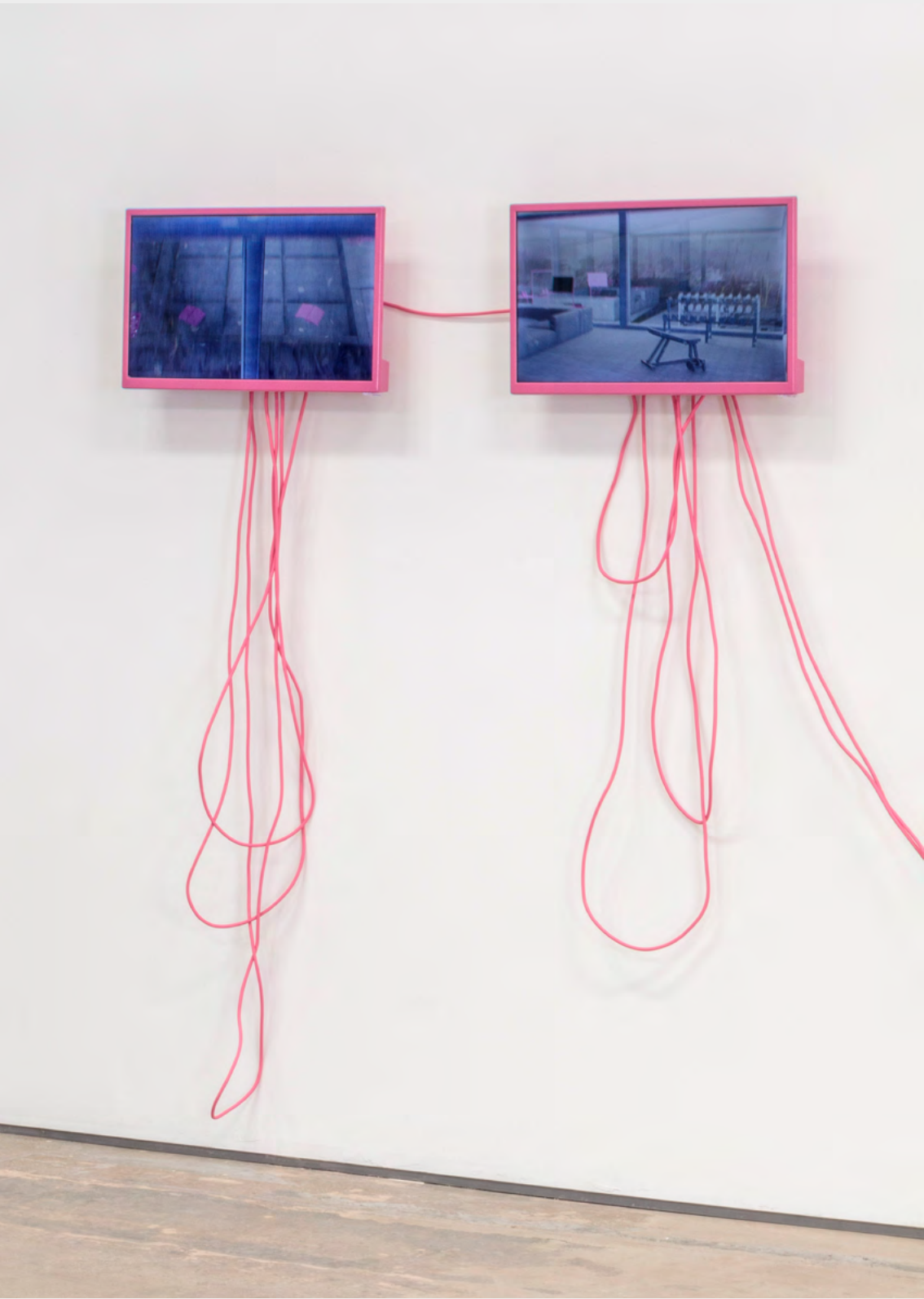


HARRY NURIEV

[→ VIEW ONLINE](#)

SMALL SCREENS
2022

Electronic Equipment, Plastic, Cables
35 x 49.5 x 9 cm
13 3/4 x 19 1/2 x 3 1/2 in



HARRY NURIEV

[→](#) VIEW ONLINE

DENIM WALL POCKET A
2022

Casing Material, Denim Upholster
172 x 97.5 x 18 cm
67 3/4 x 38 3/8 x 7 1/8 in



HARRY NURIEV

[→](#) VIEW ONLINE

DENIM WALL POCKET B
2022

Casing Material, Denim Upholstery
172 x 97.5 x 18 cm
67 3/4 x 38 3/8 x 7 1/8 in



HARRY NURIEV

[→](#) VIEW ONLINE

DENIM CUSHION
ENERGY
2022

Denim Upholstery, Embroidery
50 x 50 x 15 cm
19 3/4 x 19 3/4 x 5 7/8 in



HARRY NURIEV

[→](#) VIEW ONLINE

DENIM CUSHION
DENIM
2022

Denim Upholstery, Embroidery
50 x 50 x 15 cm
19 3/4 x 19 3/4 x 5 7/8 in





MARTIN LAFORÊT | VARIATIONS

MARTIN LAFORÊT

[→ VIEW ONLINE](#)

V1LC19YELLOW | CHAIR
2023

Colored concrete
71 x 45 x 56 cm
28 x 17 3/4 x 22 in
Unique

Taking its visual cues from artificial landscapes, such as the roads and concrete edifices of sprawling urban jungles, Martin Laforêt's Variations collection confers new life onto ubiquitous imagery. Laforêt builds outwards from a central standardized frame, experimenting with casting and coloring techniques to produce a series of unique sculptures defined by their variations.

V1LC19 Yellow incorporates a cobbled effect of stones cast into the concrete frame, which gives it a more rustic sensibility when compared to the modernity of the other pieces in the collection.



MARTIN LAFORÊT

[→ VIEW ONLINE](#)

V1LC16WHITEGREY | CHAIR
2022

Colored concrete
71 x 69 x 46 cm
28 x 27 1/8 x 18 1/8 in
Unique

Martin Laforêt combines elements of Arte Povera with Brutalism in his artistic practice, conferring nobility onto industrial building materials through hand-crafted processes. Inspired by architecture, the artist does not follow a specific course of conduct in his work, but focuses on elevating everyday building materials into fine artworks.



MARTIN LAFORÊT

[→ VIEW ONLINE](#)

V1LC7PINK | CHAIR
2023

Colored concrete
71 x 63 x 42 cm
28 x 24 3/4 x 16 1/2 in
Unique

Martin Laforêt embraces ambiguity in his work, utilizing inviting color schemes and intuitively shaped forms to shift his practice away from specific architectural connotations. He achieves a sense of levity in *V1LC7 Pink* through a combination of applying the concrete by hand to a skeletal metal frame, and coloring it a bright bubble-gum pink. The cross-hatched frame is left visible on the reverse of the artwork, highlighting the competing influences and processes to have shaped it.



MARTIN LAFORÊT

[→ VIEW ONLINE](#)

V1LC30BLUE | CHAIR
2023

Colored concrete
94 x 65 x 42 cm
37 x 25 5/8 x 16 1/2 in
Unique

The Variations collection reinterprets symbols derived from industrial and urban scenographies into a more poetic language. Through minimalist details, such as the contrasted horizontal and vertical concrete grains in *V1LC30 Blue*, Martin Laforêt builds nuance and character into each piece.

The artist is meticulous about the casting process, taking a holistic approach to the construction of each piece, unifying form, material and process into his sculptural artworks.



MARTIN LAFORÊT

[→ VIEW ONLINE](#)

V1LC27LIGHTGREYDARKGREY | CHAIR
2022

Colored concrete
103 x 77 x 32 cm
40 1/2 x 30 1/4 x 12 5/8 in
Unique

Martin Laforêt uses a two-tone color contrast as one of the few consistent features between the pieces in the *Variations* collection. His experiments with coloring concrete add levity to the material and give each piece a tangibly different personality. The artist enjoys finding beauty in the differences between artworks made via the same repeated processes.



MARTIN LAFORÊT

[➔ VIEW ONLINE](#)

V1LC17LIGHTYELLOW | CHAIR
2022

Colored concrete
70.5 x 56 x 46 cm
27 3/4 x 22 x 18 1/8 in
Unique

The imperfections of casting the concrete *Variations* collection are what make each piece unique. Martin Laforêt embraces unintentional flaws within the material as he considers the artistic process to be more important than the finished article. Aligned with the principles of the Italian art movement *Arte Povera*, the artist elevates industrial material such as concrete into intensely charismatic artworks via a process of purification, removing extraneous or overtly decorative detail from his work.



MARTIN LAFORÊT

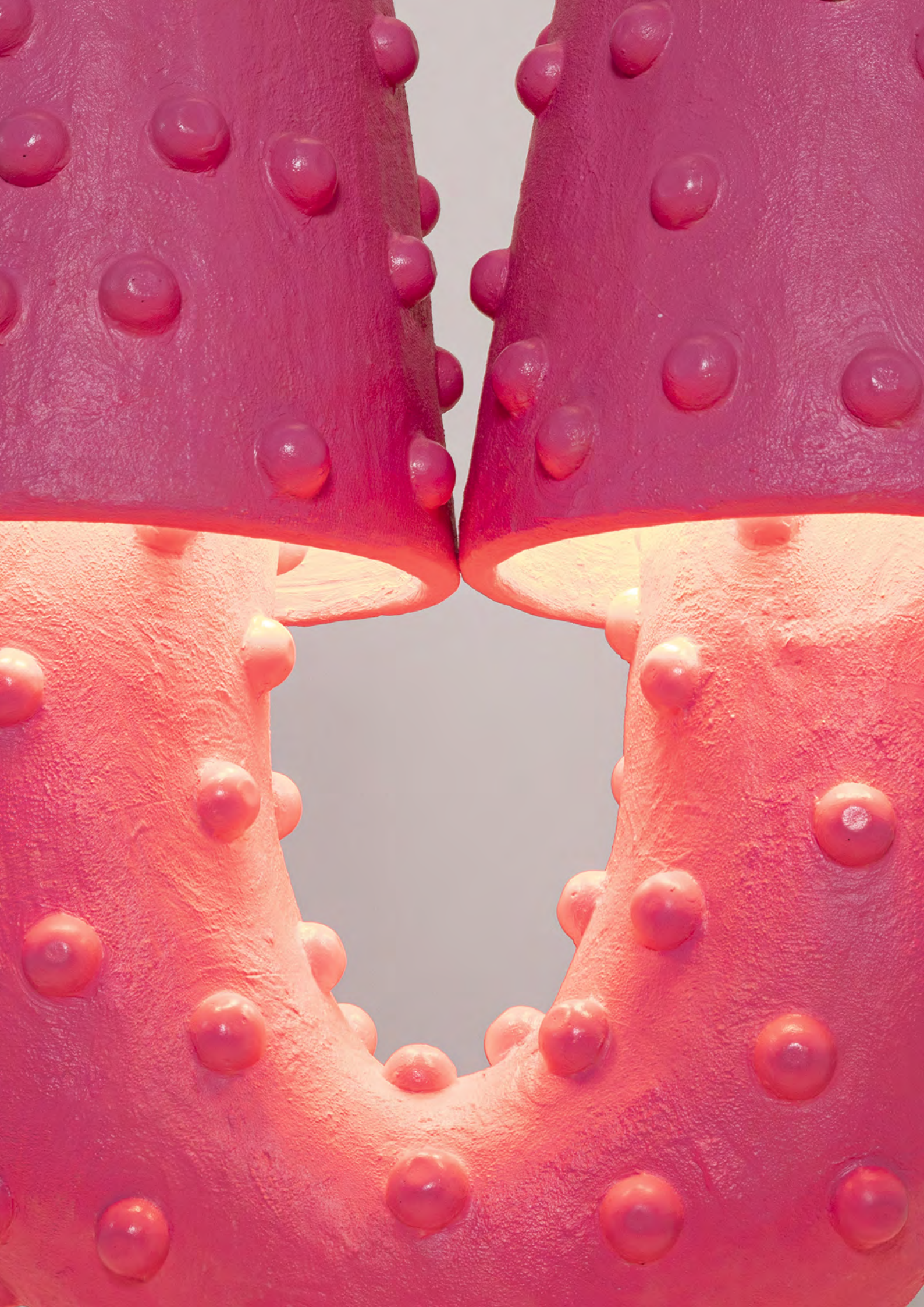
[→ VIEW ONLINE](#)

V1LC24WHITEGREY | CHAIR
2022

Colored concrete
70.5 x 61 x 42 cm
27 3/4 x 24 x 16 1/2 in
Unique

Martin Laforêt's *Variations* collection is built upon a standardized central concrete element, from which he spontaneously builds outwards. Each object is unique, made inevitable by the casting imperfections in each concrete mold combined with the artist's experimental approach.





LÉA MESTRES | FAMILY BUSINESS

SUZY | LAMP
2022

Lélélite, Cement, Paint,
Varnish, Light Fittings
200 x 100 x 42 cm
78 3/4 x 39 3/8 x 16 1/2 in
Unique

Léa Mestres' colorful artworks are palpably full of joy and emotion. Flying in the face of tradition and rebelling against lofty art historical concepts to be taken 'seriously', Mestres deliberately chose an approach to her work that is humorous, light, and playful.

Despite this levity, Mestres' artworks take the form of oversized towers made of cement and plaster. Their materials and size lend each work an architectural element, but each is also easily personified and given an anthropomorphic aura due to the personality imbued in them by Mestres. Their life-size dimensions are the result of the artist's playing with scale and volume, as she delights in the ridiculousness that accompanies disproportion.





LÉA MESTRES

➔ VIEW ONLINE

STACY | LAMP
2022
Lélélite, Cement, Paint,
Varnish, Light Fittings
247 x 110 x 53 cm
97 1/4 x 43 1/4 x 20 7/8 in
Unique

The pieces are named after friends of a Mestres', and colored a bright pink that she draws from a wide source of popular culture, from the fashion designer Valentino, to Missy Elliot's music videos and Nikki Saint de Phalle's iconic *Tarot Garden* in Italy.



LÉA MESTRES

➔ VIEW ONLINE

JESSY | LAMP
2022
Lélélite, Cement, Paint,
Varnish, Light Fittings
160 x 100 x 53 cm
63 x 39 3/8 x 20 7/8 in
Unique

Crepi, the plaster used in *Stacy*, is widely used across France and has left the artist with an enduring love of building façades, which are often found in a state of disrepair. Mestres transposes this material into a new context, revitalizing the material in her artworks which in turn lends them strength. Their surfaces are covered in small bumps to reference the plaster brioche and eggs that adorn the outer walls of the Salvador Dalí museum in Figueras, Spain. Mestres’ unique style perfectly captures a similar architectural surrealism.



HARRY NURIEV



Harry Nuriev (b. 1984) is a New York and Paris-based artist, architect and interior furniture designer, as well as the founder and creative director of Crosby Studios, an interior architecture and design studio established in 2014. Nuriev's creative practice spans a broad range, including immersive environments, virtual installations, public spaces and object design. Nuriev designs innovative retail spaces, including within the Web3 digital realm, and draws inspiration from the unexpected beauty of everyday objects we engage with. His reconstructive style fuses art, design, architecture and fashion, breaking the boundaries that have traditionally separated these creative fields to challenge broader ideas about how we live and work.

MARTIN LAFORÊT



Martin Laforêt is a French artist born in July 1991. Raised in Paris but now living in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, Laforêt creates objects and furniture. His work does not follow any specific course of conduct, yet his overall use of techniques and interest in materials displays its own clear consistencies. Inspired by artisan skills and the intelligence of the hand, Laforêt's work is an attempt to bring out the specific personality of materials and to search for original shapes and material combinations: "I like objects attached to the domain of sculpture, industry, and architecture."

LÉA MESTRES



Léa Mestres is a French artist and designer based in Vernon, Giverny. She counters a design world that in her opinion often feels too serious and too masculine. Her artworks stand out as fun, colorful objects, which are intentionally bright and breezy as a reflection of her own personality. It is vital to Mestres that she design objects that bring joy to others, rather than be elegant but characterless. She finds inspiration in the absurd, citing her frequent trips to the Salvador Dali Museum in Figuras, Spain, as particularly impactful. Idiosyncrasies like the stylised pattern of brioche and eggs that cover the museum's walls have influenced the unrepressed expression in her work. Embracing childish impulses, Mestres likes playing with scale and sometimes makes ridiculously big objects.

