

KOSTAS LAMBRIDIS

REVERSE FIREWORKS IN SLOW MOTION

NEW YORK | SEPTEMBER 2023



CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY

Carpenters Workshop Gallery presents *Reverse Fireworks in Slow Motion*, a solo exhibition by Kostas Lambridis. The Greek artist presents nine new works that explore approaches to finding functionality within a sculpture through creating a bar, chairs, tables and lighting.

The artist's methodological approach intrinsically takes time and, as Kostas expresses, offers “an awe-inducing experience like that of capturing the spectacle of a Fireworks in reverse slow motion. At this moment, a new perspective emerges by examining it in reverse. It challenges the notion of Fireworks as fleeting bursts, devoid of lasting impact and invites contemplation on their creation's intricacies.”

Kostas Lambridis invites us into his universe of creativity and process by mapping out a network of sketches, notes, photographs, found objects, and raw materials surrounding his finished sculptures to mirror the Fireworks bursts around them.

By providing an alternative viewpoint, this exhibition invites viewers to question the mechanisms behind the enthralling displays and invites them to bask in the splendor and intricate beauty within these momentary flashes.





“I feel like my previous work was horizontal and this work is vertical. Before, I was just looking at the landscape, but now I’m digging holes and diving into each material”

– KOSTAS LAMBRIDIS



KOSTAS LAMBRIDIS

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SPIN, RISE, AND THRUST IN RANDOM DIRECTION
CHANDELIER
2023

Glass, Copper, Aluminum, Electronics, LEDs, Brass
100 x 150 x 55 cm
39 3/8 x 59 x 21 5/8 in
Unique

“spin, rise, and thrust in random direction” was born from the success of Kostas Lambridis’ Kepler light sculptures. Its genesis was rooted in an organic creation shaped by intuition to reject the perfect spheres of the Kepler sculptures. The nebulous shape of the final artwork was pre-meditated only in freehand scribbles, prioritising spontaneity over certainty. Surrendering to an unpredictable process and returning to a childlike mindset, Lambridis presents *“spin, rise, and thrust in random direction”* as an example of deconstruction, an explosion of creativity, and the allure of shapelessness. This transformation captures the raw beauty in losing oneself to a formless abyss.

“spin, rise, and thrust in random direction” is a symphony of materials harmoniously intertwined. Glass, copper, aluminium, electronics, neon, LEDs, and brass are all woven into an illuminated tapestry that symbolises the interconnectedness of elements. It forms a coral-like shape achieved by treating copper in an electroforming bath, preserving intricate details and adding to its visual allure. Including small spotlights adds an abstract quality, enhancing the overall visual impact and adding an element of dynamic illumination.





KOSTAS LAMBRIDIS

AERIAL SHELL
BAR
2023

Aluminum, Steel, Metal from Car Parts
(VW Beetle & Citroen 2 CVs)
125 x 200 x 125 cm
49 1/4 x 78 3/4 x 49 1/4 in
Unique

Glistening polished aluminium and steel components weave a captivating tale. Conjuring visions of automotive wonders as well as medieval and steampunk aesthetics, “aerial shell” exudes an air of antiquity akin to chariots and ancient contraptions. It is a visual voyage that pays homage to the spirit of invention of previous eras while at the same time offering something totally futuristic.

“aerial shell”’s journey began as an exploration of metal, mainly concerning intricate car parts. Lambridis took apart a friend’s VW Beetle for repair (returning it eventually in better condition) but was left with an assortment of old and malfunctioning parts from which this sculptural mechanism was born. The artist then visited scrap yards and found many parts from old Citroën 2CVs, a ubiquitous car across Greece that holds tremendous nostalgic power.

When the parts were combined, an organic spiral pattern unexpectedly began to materialise. However, the spiral motif transcends, as it is a functional artwork that opens from both front and back, unveiling a bar space for serving - a testament to form meeting function in a seamless union. Replete with alchemical symbolism, hard steel casing gives way internally to softer copper, a metaphor for the transition of states.









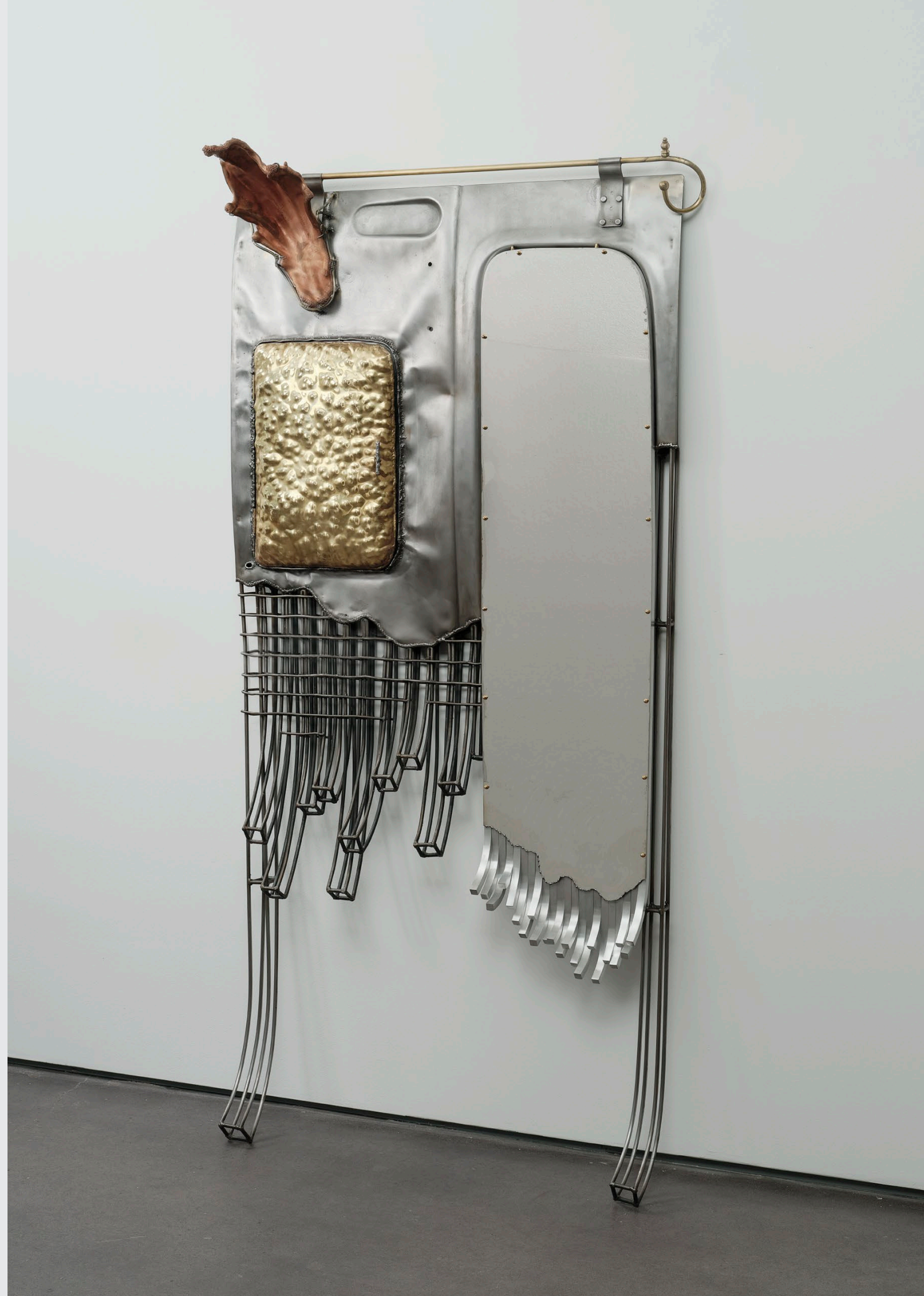
KOSTAS LAMBRIDIS

LI TAN
MIRROR
2023

Metal
200 x 98 x 32 cm
78 3/4 x 38 5/8 x 12 5/8 in
Unique

The “*Li Tan*” mirror is named after the Chinese monk accredited for inventing the fireworks around 600AD. The firework is an essential motif to Kostas Lambridis; its elemental and inherently deconstructive properties have formed a conceptual link throughout the *Reverse Fireworks in Slow Motion* exhibition. This artwork encapsulates those concepts, as seen in how Lambridis translates the metal through various states of dematerialisation.

“*Li Tan*” shows a firework mid-explosion. A flame brush escapes from its top corner, and the fan of curved tubes that lines its base forms a rocketing tail. The force of the blast is contained behind the burnished bronze compartment that Kostas Lambridis has beaten into shape by hand and attached to a buckling metal sheet to mimic an explosive impact. Swinging forward on its hinges, however, it reveals a further compartment.



BURST CHARGE
CHANDELIER
2023

Aluminum, Copper, Electronic Components
65 cm diameter
25.5 in diameter
Unique

“burst charge” embodies the profound ideas and intricate craftsmanship found throughout the *Reverse Fireworks in Slow Motion* exhibition. Illustrated by this artwork, a reverse firework does not explode outwards like traditional fireworks but is deconstructed and simplified, looking inwards and inviting self-reflection.

This piece draws inspiration from the enigmatic imagery of Medusa and her serpentine hair and the spectacle of raw intestines spilling from a body. Deconstruction and reassembly are balanced against each other as the viewer is offered an inverted perspective of the piece.

At its core, *“burst charge”* manifests elegant transformation. It seamlessly transitions from aluminium to copper via a graceful cascade of blue light. Its intriguing illumination is sourced from a mesmerising bubble-like structure bathed in the glow of a central bulb. Neon accents dance around it, casting an interplay of light and shadow.

Rejecting excess, the artwork champions a minimalist ethos. It finds beauty in simplicity while radiating and echoing the essence of deconstruction. A nod to the exhibition’s mono-material theme, *“burst charge”* celebrates the depth and richness that emanate from pure materials.





FUSED BEFORE CHARRED
DINING TABLE
2023

Wooden Varieties, American Walnut, Greek Walnut, Niagone, Iroko, Greek Olive, Wenge, Mahogany, Ash, Beech, Portuguese Cypress, Composite (Osb), Pine, Oak
76 x 198 x 242 cm
29 7/8 x 78 x 95 1/4 in
Unique

At the heart of *Reverse Fireworks in Slow Motion*, “fused before charred” embodies the exhibition’s core themes of metamorphosis, materiality, and meticulous craftsmanship. Lambridis described the experience of crafting the work as similar to his evolution as an artist, a symbolic journey from complexity to purity.

To capture the full breadth of its essence, Lambridis involved an array of wooden varieties in *fuse before charred*, including American walnut, Greek walnut, niagone, iroko, Greek olive, wenge, mahogany, ash, beech, Portuguese cypress, composite (osb), pine, oak, and more.

Each of these components, despite their final harmonisation within the finished artwork, was treated and processed based on its own merits, considering their natural qualities and disparate origins. His ability to assimilate these into the overall larger structure gives the impression that an object chosen at random was in fact destined to become a vital cog in this mechanism, somehow unwittingly made specifically for this artwork.









KOSTAS LAMBRIDIS

[→ VIEW ONLINE](#)

MIX THEM TOGETHER
BAR STOOLS
2023

Various Woods

CHAIR 1

106 x 57 x 51 cm
41 3/4 x 22 1/2 x 20 1/8 in

CHAIR 2

108 x 50 x 48 cm
42 1/2 x 19 3/4 x 18 7/8 in

Unique

Kostas Lambridis' deep research into wood for the artworks within his *Reverse Fireworks in Slow Motion* exhibition continues from "*fused before charred*," his masterful dining table to this captivating pair of bar stools, "*mix them together*." The dialogue between the two interweaves similar techniques with impromptu and unexpected elements, enriching the relationship between the pieces and forming a harmonious pair, with one representing feminine and the other masculine energy.





KOSTAS LAMBRIDIS

INTERIOR IGNITION STAGE
CHAIR AND STOOL
2023

Various Woods
102 x 70 x 54 cm
40 1/8 x 27 1/2 x 21 1/4 in
Unique

“*interior ignition stage*” epitomises the timeless beauty of wood, celebrating its natural warmth and character. The collaborative symphony between Lambridis and his fellow artisans resulted in the pushing of craft boundaries. The spark of creativity ignited in this work’s design grew into the passion that fuelled the concept of “*fused before charred.*” These pieces share a creative lineage, with one influencing the other as they were developed simultaneously.

There was a shared mindset between the team, an excitement that kept momentum in the development of the pieces even when there was never a precise idea of the finished article. The artworks now stand as the results of consistent material improvisations, products of their specific circumstance. Nate and Louis, the two other woodworking artisans, are special to Lambridis as these artworks would not exist in this way without them.





“There is a structure in the way I work that has become more of a limitation, than an open door. With the excuse of this new show, I wanted to face the void. When you look at my previous work, there is a certain level of complexity. I realized if you focus on one material, like wood, eventually you realize there is the same level of complexity within that material.”

– KOSTAS LAMBRIDIS



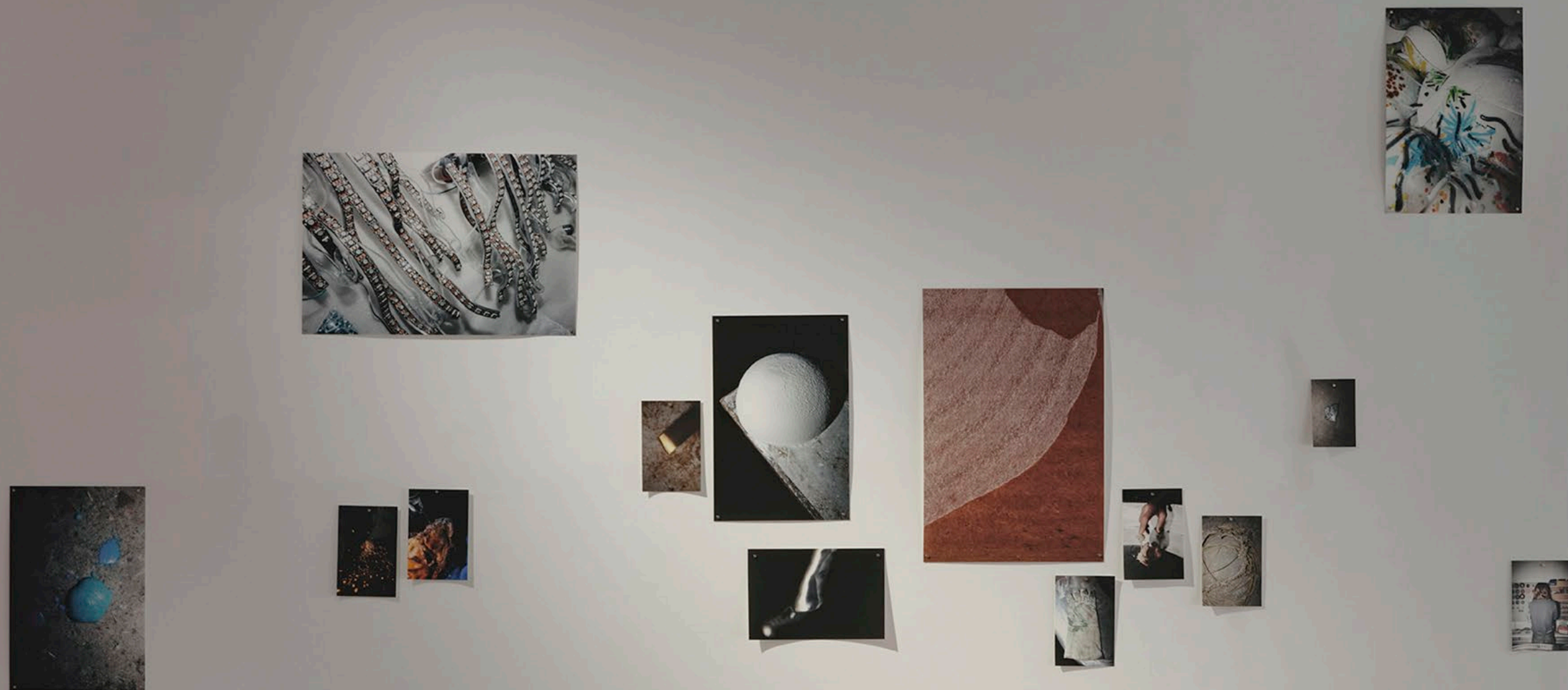
IT MELTS FIRST
CONSOLE
2023

Plastic, Fiberglass, Polyester
90 x 230 x 40 cm
35 3/8 x 90 1/2 x 15 3/4 in
Unique

"it melts first" presents a striking fusion of contrasts, with a solid, structured base supporting a translucent and colourful top. At first, this juxtaposition is disarming, but the transformations between vibrant elements that seem to melt into one another quickly invite the viewer to explore the piece closely.

Beyond its visual allure, *"it melts first"* represents a deep investigation of plastic essences, inherently assuming a fluid and tactile approach to man-made materials. Lambridis metaphorically compares the simultaneous display of plastics in different states, some solid and some fluid, similar to the relationship between skeleton and flesh, two materially different but equally necessary body parts.









KOSTAS LAMBRIDIS

ALL YOU NEED NOW IS SOME OXYGEN
LOW TABLE
2023

Minerals
45 x 145 x 115 cm
17 3/4 x 57 1/8 x 45 1/4 in
Unique

"all you need now is some oxygen" completes the exhibition *Reverse Fireworks in Slow Motion* as a descent into the elemental forces of Earth's minerals.

These include various materials from natural resources, including glass, ceramic, concrete, and marble. Egalitarian, as always, Lambridis ensures no one material is overlooked in favour of another and treats the entire mineral spectrum as a space for exploration in the pursuit of beauty.

Balancing complexity against purity, the artist presents a unified artwork built from many mineral facets. To create a cohesive final composition, Lambridis gave himself deliberate constraints to work within, setting rules that transformed the creative process into an engaging challenge. Within the boundaries of this approach, a realm of discovery unfolded, leading to unexpected configurations, juxtapositions, and the birth of a highly original, sculptural artwork.

[→ VIEW ONLINE](#)







KOSTAS
LAMBRIDIS



ABOUT KOSTAS LAMBRIDIS

Kostas Lambridis (1988) is a Greek designer based in Athens, Greece. He started his studies on Syros, a small Cycladic Island in the Aegean Sea, where he obtained a diploma in Design Engineering. In 2011 he moved to Eindhoven, The Netherlands, to work for Nacho Carbonell and remained a vital studio member for eight years. In the meantime, he continued his studies at the “Contextual Design” master’s program of the Design Academy Eindhoven, and he graduated Cum Laude in 2017. His graduation project, “Elemental Cabinet,” brought him international attention, and he has participated in several group exhibitions ever since. In 2019 he was part of “Metamorphosis: Art in Europe Now” at Fondation Cartier in Paris.



