DESIGN MIAMI. LA

DESIGN

NICK MISSEL **GULLA JÓNSDÓTTIR** JUSTIN WESLEY FEYZA KEMAHLIOGLU BENJAMIN GILLESPIE GREGORY NANGLE



MAY 16-**HOLMBY HILLS**

Los Angeles



NICK MISSEL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Born in St Louis, Missouri in 1989, Nicholas Missel graduated from the Kansas City Art Institute with a BFA in Sculpture before going on to study at the Rhode Island School of Design, where Missel attended as a Jack Kent Cooke Scholar, acquiring an MFA in Sculpture. After Graduating in 2016, Missel attended Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. At Skowhegan he discovered his 'Negatives' series that has continued to evolve and inform his work to the present. Missel has exhibited work at In Good Company, receiving best in show, A/D/O, and Socrates Sculpture Park, NY.

Missel's approach is unique, seeing the work as a form of 'cultural archeology of the working class,' choosing objects that sit on the periphery of our attention and wanting to give them new life. Like the negative of a photograph, the objects maintain a similarity to their original form but transform to have their own identity grounded in an undefined terrain of present, past, and future. "I wanted to make responsive sculptures that you could interact with" and silicone has become an integral part of the work for Missel.

His work is influenced by an Anthropocentric worldview based on the human effect on the earth, "where objects melt, are in a state of plasma, infinitely malleable, and past identities are erased, and new identities are formed." The sculptures are otherworldly, almost digital, transporting you to the realm of fantasy while simultaneously grounded in the real through the texture and forms of the remnants of the objects they come from.











ALUMATION COLLECTION: BREAKPOINT AND HULK, 2024
Aluminum radiators, resin fiberglass, 37 x 54 x 27 in, 11 x 18 x 13 in





REM COLLECTION: CALIFORNIA DREAMING, 2024
Automotive paint, resin fiberglass, 33 x 32 x 26 in









INFRATHIN COLLECTION, 2024 Silicone, memory foam, 18 x 18 x 18 in (each)







INFRATHIN COLLECTION: TIGER EYE, 2024 Silicone, memory foam, 18 x 18 x 18 in



INFRATHIN COLLECTION: PURPLE RAIN, 2024 Silicone, memory foam, 18 x 18 x 18 in



GULLA JÓNSDÓTTIR

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Gulla Jonsdottir, a groundbreaking architect and designer, is known for her work exemplified by its dynamic use of curved forms and sensuality. Her iconic style focuses on bringing unique spatial experiences that respond to nature and the surrounding site, always echoing the integration of organic beauty and function. Unlocking a visual landscape that is both futuristic and a warm evocation of yesterday's world of tomorrow.

Gulla thrives to transform the way we think about design and the language of architecture. The artist within has sought to question everything taken for granted and as a result, created spectacular and unique spaces. The genesis of Gulla's design begins in her sketchbook with superfluid drawings, that reflect her belief in the connection between, art, architecture and nature.

Gulla studied mathematics before moving to Los Angeles to study architecture at Sci-Arc (Southern California Institute of Architecture). Before starting her own firm in 2009, she worked for Richard Meier on renowned projects such as the Getty Center Museum and Gagosian Gallery, at Walt Disney Imagineering she worked on Tokyo Disney Seas, and she led the hospitality design firm Dodd Mitchell design for 9 years.

In her career of architecture and design, Gulla has received several awards, the most recent being "Best International Restaurant Design" (2021) for Esperanza and honored by West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce for Leading in Women in Design (2022).















GULLA NECKLACE, 2024
Gold-plated brass, 1 x 13 x 13 in, Edition of 18

JUSTIN WESLEY

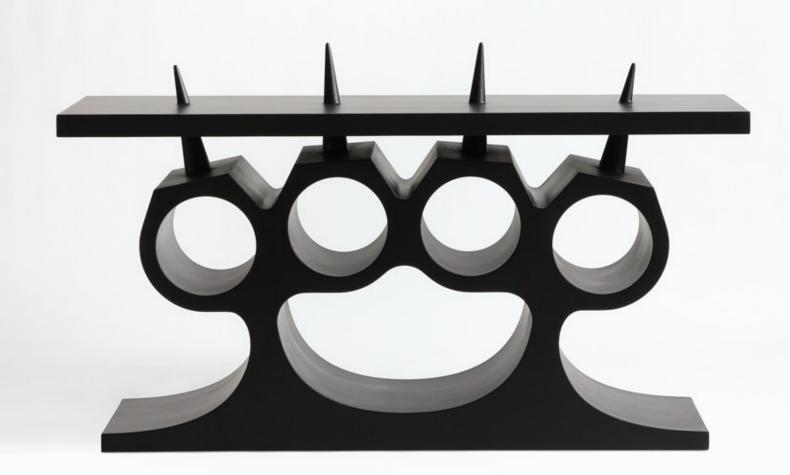
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Justin Wesley is an emerging talent in contemporary art whose artistic expression has been born through self-discovery. Wesley had no formal training in design, which informed his journey in fashion design and now art as a creative exploration of identity.

Wesley's debut design, *Knuckles Console*, represents a personal push against perception at the core of the artist's identity. He engages with brass knuckles - an object not typically associated with sophistication or elegance – and expands the form beyond its known archetype. Now, like Wesley himself, the Knuckles Console is not confined to an impression. In certain ways, the work is Wesley's first self-portrait.

Being self-taught, you start in the dark — and with every step and reach, your ideas develop in a way that is truly unique to yourself and your own experiences. As someone who has not been taught what is and what has been, Wesley only sees and concerns himself with what can be. "I am that tenth man, and I believe this makes me more formidable and versatile in my work because I create from curiosity instead of concerning myself with the "rules" — there are no rules in design. Design is free and beyond whatever boundaries we try to plague it with. It is not meant to be confined or restricted — it's meant to inspire, expand the mind, and reveal possibilities that didn't exist before."











FEYZA KEMAHLIOGLU

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Feyza Kemahlioglu was born and raised in Istanbul, Turkey. She completed her Bachelor's of Architecture at Carnegie Mellon University, and her Master's in Architecture and Urban Design at Columbia University GSAPP in New York City.

Her training in architecture, art, glassblowing and woodworking pushed her to launch her own architecture and design studio where the focus is to create high quality, sculptural pieces through research into unique methods of making.

"I am proud to be a working mom, a Turkish woman living and working in New York, and a woman business owner! I am lucky to follow my passions creating beautiful and functional designs inspired by my culture and heritage."











BENJAMIN GILLESPIE

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Benjamin Gillespie has been designing and meticulously creating illuminated sculptures in his Philadelphia studio for over six years. Each artwork flows from a wide spectrum of backgrounds that include engineering, woodworking, and a life-long appreciation of architecture.

Benjamin's newest design, *The Ascent*, explores the malleability of wood with combined sculpted forms to create a rising placement of light. Each form incorporates led as a light source and is designed to more evenly disperse glow to create a more calming and comfortable effect.

The Ascent further includes color finish specifically selected to highlight material while also coordinating with a dual light control that may be actively modified depending on the desired mood of the viewer.

Intended to evoke movement, *The Ascent* pulls influence from Marcel DuChamp's painting *Nude Descending a Staircase 2* whereby the movement here is upwards from the base to the top of the light. The rising placement of light is intended to evoke ascending movement of natural light throughout the course of a day with the ability to change in color reflecting the change in sky depending on the hour











GREGORY NANGLE

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Born in 1973 in Philadelphia, Gregory Nangle first began making sculpture at the age of two when he began experimenting with his family's clocks and radios. Gregory went on to study glass at the Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia. He also attended the University of Hartford Art School where he met his first glass mentor, Mark Ferguson. After discovering the joy of inducing metal into its liquid state, Gregory became focused on marrying the two new materials on his palette.

The love of creation led Gregory to pursue his own studio/foundry, Outcast Studios, which he established in the Fishtown neighborhood of Philadelphia. At Outcast, Gregory has had the chance to research and develop his own sculpture and furniture design.







TIM ROLLINS & KOS

In 1982, artist and teacher Tim Rollins created an after-school program in the South Bronx for his most dedicated students. The Art and Knowledge workshop soon morphed into Tim Rollins and the Kids of Survival (K.O.S.). Together, Rollins and K.O.S. developed a collaborative strategy that combined lessons in reading and writing with the production of impactful works of art. In a process they called "jamming," Rollins or a member of the collective would read selected texts aloud while other members drew, cut, ripped, painted onto pages of the text, relating the stories to their own experiences. What was manifested from their collaborations became a powerful body of work that can be seen today in over 120 museums and public collections worldwide including MoMA, The Tate Modern and The Art Institute of Chicago











For more information about these artists and designers, please contact Wexler Gallery:

info@wexlergallery.com | 215-923-7030

