

PIERRE MARIE

GIRAUD

# KARIN GULBRAN

*Obscure Mirrors & Totemic Lamps*

June 2 - July 2, 2022



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## *Obscure Mirrors & Totemic Lamps*

Press release

PIERRE MARIE GIRAUD is pleased to present *Obscure Mirrors & Totemic Lamps*, a new gallery exhibition by Karin Gulbran starting June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The American artist will debut two new bodies of work which she will present alongside some of her well-known ceramic pots and vases.

Karin Gulbran (b. 1967, Seattle, United States) was initially trained as a painter but turned to ceramics in the early stages of her artistic career. As a potter, Gulbran is able to build a bridge between art and craft, between 'functional objects' and ornamentation. She draws inspiration from a deep and emotional connection with nature; depicting memories and sensations on irregularly hand-built vessels. This unfolds in fantastic figurative scenes, featuring wide-eyed animals, lush landscapes and populated waters.

The same can be seen in Gulbran's newly created 'Totemic Lamps'; elegant floor lamps inspired by the work of the French 20<sup>th</sup>-century artist Guidette Carbonell. The Totemic Lamps are intended to be functional sculptures, but at the same time, they unarguably qualify as works of art. The column of each piece is meticulously ornamented and decorated with stunning details; becoming a vertical field or a landscape encircled with miniature boars, lions, serpents, birds, vines and lemons.

The newly introduced 'Obscure Mirrors', combining hand-formed, coloured and silvered glass with sculptural ceramic frames, also allude to the familiar and functional — yet they are different. Their reflection is obscured, similar to the surface of water or one's reflection in a murky pond. They create an experience of colour and light that shifts through the day. 'There is a temptation to see oneself,' Gulbran says, 'But as I have lived with these works in my studio for a while, I have noticed that they have changed the way I gaze.' Just like the Totemic Lamps, the

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Obscure Mirrors were born during the first two years of the pandemic; they are the result of what Gulbran describes as an 'insular and introverted experience'.

Gulbran's new bodies of work integrate the phenomena of light with the earthiness of expressionist, allegorical, symbolic and tactile ceramics. Working with a repetition of loosely stylized motifs to represent landscapes, she uses a wide range of elements to play with the boundaries between decorative patterning and space — simultaneously flattening and giving the suggestion of depth. In doing so, she has developed a unique style and a sophisticated way of work; one that requires both vision and patience.

**KARIN GULBRAN** lives and works in Los Angeles, California. She obtained a BFA at the San Francisco Art Institute in 1996 and an MFA in painting at UCLA in 1999. Gulbran's work has been included in recent exhibitions in David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles in 2021; Massimo De Carlo, London and Milan in 2021 and 2018; Galerie Pierre Marie Giraud, Brussels in 2018 and 2016; China Art Objects Gallery, Los Angeles in 2015; Blum and Poe, Los Angeles in 2015; and White Columns, New York City in 2014.

On view at Galerie Pierre Marie Giraud from June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.

For further inquiries or to request HD images, please contact [regis@pierremariegiraud.com](mailto:regis@pierremariegiraud.com).

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