Shape of Silence

Helle Damkjær

Solo show

Opening reception
Thursday, November 12, 2026 at 6 PM

Exhibition
Opens Friday, November 13, 2026

Galerie Carole Decombe
30 rue de Lille, 75007 Paris

GALERIE CAROLE DECOMBE

Shape of Silence

With Shape of Silence, Galerie Carole Decombe presents its third solo exhibition with Helle Damkjær, continuing an artistic dialogue that began twelve years ago. The first two exhibitions introduced audiences to her ceramics and traced the evolution of her work through her explorations of form, materials, and volume.

This new exhibition offers a broader view of her work, bringing together key pieces rooted in her earliest inspirations and her most recent creations. It reveals the breadth of her experimentation and the coherence of an artistic language that has grown more assured over the years, as she explores new materials and scales.

The pared-back forms and smooth surfaces of white earthenware, as seen in *Twins B*, recall her early explorations. They are shown alongside more recent works in chamotte stoneware, such as *Raw Tray*, whose raw, granular texture gives the material a different presence. In *Cave*, black stoneware reveals another aspect of her work, the depth of its color emphasizing the strength of its volumes. Bronze and marble extend this sculptural exploration, while her lighting pieces demonstrate her ability to bring form and function together.



The exhibition also presents the *K-chair* armchair and its ottoman, designed for the Japanese furniture maker Kitani and shown in France for the first time. The chair's woodwork and curves carry over into furniture the same sensitivity to line and volume found in her sculptures.



Bringing together ceramics, bronze and marble sculpture, lighting, and furniture, Shape of Silence offers an exploration of Helle Damkjær's creative world. From smooth surfaces to raw textures, from functional objects to purely sculptural works, the exhibition reveals the diversity of her approaches and the continuity of a distinctive formal language, shaped by a constant search for harmony through form.

At the artist's invitation, Mathieu Trautmann will present four photographs of flowers from his still-life series that resonate with the sculptures on view.

True to her longstanding commitment to creating a dialogue between periods, artists, and the disciplines of the decorative arts, Carole Decombe is pleased to present Shape of Silence, an exhibition in which forms enter into a silent conversation across sculptures, objects, and photographs.

Helle Damkjær



Born in Denmark and based in France for about twenty years, Helle Damkjær has built an international design career, collaborating with Georg Jensen, Kitani, and Guerlain, among others. Her work is distinguished by an immediately recognizable formal language of fluid lines, sensual curves, and organic volumes inspired by nature and the human body. Her Bloom collection for Georg Jensen reflects this search for harmony between form and function.

Curious about the cultures and craftsmanship she encounters on her travels, Helle Damkjær draws on a broad range of influences. A year in Kyoto was especially formative, refining her sensitivity to materials, everyday objects, and tableware. This experience informed her early explorations in ceramics, a personal practice she began to develop about ten years ago, alongside her design work.

Ceramics gradually became a field of artistic expression in its own right, allowing her to explore new formal and technical possibilities. Her sculptural work also extends to marble and bronze, which she approaches with the same sensitivity to line and volume. Alongside her continuing design practice, she has developed an increasingly assured body of work, with recent creations reflecting new ambition in both scale and technical complexity.

With the support of Galerie Carole Decombe, where she has exhibited regularly from the outset, Helle Damkjær has established herself as a distinctive voice in contemporary ceramics. Her work was recently honored at Ceramic Art Fair + Glass 2026, where the Collectors' Eye jury awarded her sculpture Baroque the prize for the fair's most outstanding contemporary piece.

A designer and sculptor, Helle Damkjær continues to explore new possibilities, guided by a strong artistic identity that unites her different practices, from everyday objects to sculptural works.

Mathieu Trautmann

Trained as an art director, Mathieu Trautmann developed his visual language in fashion, beauty, and fragrance, collaborating with Dior, Chanel, Kenzo, and Issey Miyake Parfums, among others. Based in Paris, he has pursued a personal photographic practice since 2014, with still life at its center.

His photographs are defined by pared-back compositions, understated backgrounds, and close attention to line, texture, and light.

He approaches flowers as sculptural forms. The curve of a stem, the movement of a petal, the delicacy of a contour, or the depth of a color becomes central to the image. Isolated from their surroundings, the flowers take on a distinctive presence, at once fragile and expressive.

In 2021, his flower Polaroids were selected to illustrate Charles Baudelaire's Les Fleurs du mal in an edition published by Gallimard in its Folio classique series.

A longtime friend of Helle Damkjær, Mathieu Trautmann shares her sensitivity to organic forms and the beauty of the natural world. Both pay close attention to curves, proportion, and compositional balance. Where Helle Damkjær gives these forms physical substance, Mathieu Trautmann reveals them through framing and light.

At Helle Damkjær's invitation, he presents four photographs of flowers that resonate with the sculptures on view. This dialogue goes beyond an aesthetic affinity to reveal a shared sensibility, expressed through two distinct artistic practices.



GALERIE CAROLE DECOMBE



Founded by Carole Decombe in 2007, the gallery specializes in twentieth-century decorative arts and contemporary collectible design. Based on rue de Lille in Paris, it expanded internationally with the opening of a space in Los Angeles in 2016.

At the gallery, Carole Decombe brings together historic and contemporary furniture, lighting, and decorative objects, guided by her eye for distinctive pieces and her appreciation of materials and exceptional craftsmanship. She enjoys bringing periods into conversation, connecting styles, and creating unexpected encounters between artists and disciplines.

Her commitment to contemporary artists and designers is a natural extension of this approach. Through long-term support for their work, she supports a dynamic vision of the decorative arts, where works of the past and present speak freely to one another, beyond trends and borders.

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30 rue de Lille, 75007 Paris
Monday–Saturday, 10:30 AM–6:30 PM

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HELLE DAMKJÆR

K-chair and ottoman



HELLE DAMKJÆR

Twins B



HELLE DAMKJÆR

Cave



HELLE DAMKJÆR

Raw Tray



HELLE DAMKJÆR

Leaf 1



HELLE DAMKJÆR

Round Star

