

# GAGOSIAN

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## MARC NEWSON

Opening reception: Thursday, January 17, 6–8pm

January 17–February 20, 2019

522 West 21st Street, New York

Marc Newson, *Chair*, 2017, cast glass, 29 1/8 × 27 1/4 × 21 5/8 inches (74 × 69 × 55 cm) © Marc Newson

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January 11, 2019

*For me, design is a great opportunity to improve on what is already out there, to simplify, to beautify, to technologically improve.*

—Marc Newson

Gagosian is pleased to present new works by designer Marc Newson. This is Newson's first exhibition of limited-edition furniture pieces in more than a decade.

From the outset of his singular career, Newson has pursued parallel activities in limited and mass production of functional design objects. From the iconic *Lockheed Lounge* (1986) to the streamlined *Extruded Tables* and *Voronoi Shelf* (both 2006), carved from single blocks of Carrara marble, Newson approaches design as both an exploratory technical exercise and a process of conceptual, aesthetic, and physical refinement. Employing sculptural principles to address issues of efficiency, luxury, and use value, he has produced a broad array of highly crafted commodities—watches, footwear,

luggage, furniture, transport—upholding the principle that engineering and aesthetics are inseparable.

Revisiting his roots as a jeweler and silversmith, in this exhibition Newson explores increasingly rare decorative techniques at an unconventionally large, even unprecedented, scale. His cast glass chairs, made in the Czech Republic, are continuous symmetrical forms comprised of two hollow quarter-spheres. The boldly colored upper halves rest on clear bases, which absorb some of the reflected hues in their clouded interiors, an effect that subtly changes depending on the vantage point. For the *Murrina* works (2017), Newson utilizes an intricate classical glass-making technique to create streamlined desks, tables, and consoles. Their sloping and beveled planes are unified beneath pulsing fields of repeated cell-like spots on vivid colored grounds, made by fusing glass rods together and then slicing them to reveal patterned cross-sections.

In another series of desks, chairs, and lounges, Newson has employed Chinese cloisonné, an enameling technique that dates back to the thirteenth or fourteenth century. Made by hand in Beijing, the cloisonné works blur the boundaries between sculpture, furniture, and ornament, like jewels expanded to the full scale of the body. Their patterns and motifs reveal Newson's wide-ranging aesthetic influences: from his signature "orgone" pattern to more traditional Chinese floral motifs, such as large magnolias on a white ground, or cherry blossom branches set against opaque black enamel.

Finally, the exhibition includes a new series of aluminum surfboards, following the nickel version that Newson created for the American tow-in surfer Garrett McNamara and presented at Gagosian New York in 2007, as well as an Aikuchi sword made by the swordsmith Saburo Nobufusa Hokke, a Japanese Living National Treasure from the renowned Tōhoku region. By relocating these objects into the realm of fine art, Newson underscores their cultural significance, showing the value of technical precision to be both a functional and an aesthetic concern.

**Marc Newson** was born in 1963 in Sydney. He has lived and worked in Sydney, Tokyo, and Paris, and presently resides in London where his company, Marc Newson Limited, is based. He has had ongoing relationships with companies such as Apple, Louis Vuitton, Montblanc, Hermès, Nike, Hennessy, Dom Pérignon, Jaeger-LeCoultre, and Beretta; and his designs have spanned diverse sectors from technology to yachts, aerospace, fashion, and luxury goods. Collections include the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris; Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany; Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, Netherlands; Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Powerhouse Museum, Sydney; and National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia. Solo exhibitions include *Design Works*, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney (2001); Groninger Museum, Groningen, Netherlands (2004); Design Museum, London (2004); and *At Home*, Philadelphia Museum of Art (2013).

Newson was recently appointed chair of the International Design Council at the Design Museum, London, and in 2012 he was awarded a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

#MarcNewson

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### Gagosian

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