

HOSTLER BURROWS

KIM MARKEL

b. 1984, United States

Kim Markel is a furniture designer whose ethereal Glow collection is formed from translucent post-consumer and post-industrial tinted resins. The satiny, insubstantial hues of her chairs, stools, and other objects made from reclaimed plastics refract light as though extracted from a daydream or memory. Markel credits childhood cartoons, Jelly shoes, and lollipops with informing the Glow collection's palette and formal decisions — objects which she sees as imbued with “a sense of unbridled reality and strange magic.”

At the same time, her fascination with ancient processes, material recipes, and decorative techniques draws from diverse sources, including the 1st century Roman architect Vitruvius' writings, Rococo ornaments found in ecclesiastic architecture, and intricate Meissen porcelains. She sees her work as “an evolving conversation between ideas, technique, and materiality: an idea for an object, the development of a unique technique to make it, and then creating a material for it. All three pieces of the puzzle evolve as they inform one another.”

Markel received her bachelors and masters degrees from Carnegie Mellon University, subsequently working in public policy and environmental sustainability for eight years before transitioning into design. She began working on furniture fabrication at the U.S.'s largest foundry, Polich Tallix, before developing her first collection as a designer in 2016. Markel has taught sustainable design practices as a professor at Parsons School of Design/The New School since 2019. Markel's furniture and sculptural objects have been exhibited at venues including the Birmingham Museum of Art, Toyoma Prefectural Museum of Design, and the Yksi Expo in Eindhoven. She is recipient of the Architizer A+ Award for Furniture Design and her work is featured in *Architectural Digest*, *Dwell*, *Elle Decor*, *The New York Times*, and *Wallpaper*.

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EDUCATION

- 2007 Masters in Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2006 Bachelors in Design and Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Independent Art Fair with Hostler Burrows x HB381, New York, NY
International Contemporary Furniture Fair, New York, NY
TEFAF with Hostler Burrows, New York, NY
- 2024 Design Miami with Hostler Burrows, Miami, FL
- 2021 *Adaptation*, Culture Object, New York, NY
Salon Art and Design with Culture Object, Park Ave Armory, New York, NY
- 2019 *Barbie: Dreaming of a Female Future*, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL
Rethinking Plastic, Yksi Expo, Eindhoven, Denmark
Re:Plastic, Parsons School of Design, New York, NY
This Is Not a Chair, Plant Seven, High Point, NC
- 2018 *PlasticScene*, London Design Festival, Gasholders, London, UK
Sight Unseen Offsite, New York Design Week, New York, NY
- 2017 *Master Makers*, Architectural Digest Design Show, Piers 92 & 94, New York, NY
Sight Unseen Selects, New York, NY
Transcendental Functionalism, Jeff Bailey, Hudson, NY
NADA Art Fair, New York, NY
Salvage Lab, New York, NY
Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art and Design, Toyama, Japan
- 2016 Architectural Digest Design Show, New York, NY
Wanted Design, New York, NY

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2025 Female Design Council, Award for Best in Furniture, International Contemporary Furniture Fair
- 2020 New York Foundation for the Arts, Grant Award for Research and Development
- 2017 Architectural Digest "Master Maker"
Architizer Award for Furniture Design

Dwell Magazine's List of "Young Guns Shaping The Future of Design"
2016 ICF / Interior Design Magazine, Award for Best-of-Year, Furniture
Material Connexion, Best-of-Year Award for Sustainable Material Development
US Rado Star Prize Award for Innovation