

# 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, w/ honors, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2006 Bachelors in Design & Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University, w/ honors, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2002 Valedictorian, Middletown High School, Middletown, NY

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Design Miami, with Hostler Burrows, Miami, FL
- 2021 Salon Art & Design, with Culture Object, Park Ave Armory  
Adaptation, Culture Object, NYC
- 2019 *Barbie: Dreaming of a Female Future*, Birmingham Art Museum  
*Rethinking Plastic*, yksi expo, Eindhoven  
*Re:Plastic*, Parsons School of Design, NYC  
*This is not a chair*, High Point, NC
- 2018 *Plasticscene*, London Design Festival, London  
Sight Unseen Offsite, NYC
- 2017 NADA Art Fair, NYC  
*Transcendental Functionalism*, Jeff Bailey, Hudson, NY  
Toyama Prefectural Museum of Design, Japan,  
Salvage Lab, NYC  
Sight Unseen Selects, NYC  
Architectural Digest “Master Makers”, NYC
- 2016 Wanted Design, NYC  
Architectural Digest Design Show, NYC

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2020 New York Foundation for the Arts Grant Award for Research and Development
- 2017 Named to Dwell Magazine’s list of “Young Guns Shaping The Future of Design”  
Architizer Award for Furniture Design  
Named Architectural Digest “Master Maker”
- 2016 Material Connexion Best of Year Award for Sustainable Material Development  
US Rado Star Prize Award for Innovation  
ICFF/ Interior Design Magazine Award for Best of Year for Furniture