

Paris Dispatch / January 2022

The four shows to catch this week ...

By Anna Sansom / 5th January 2022



Diane de Kergal, 'Emergence' series, 2021
COURTESY: Galerie Gosserez & Diane de Kergal

WOMEN DESIGNERS FROM France and Denmark are particularly prominent in several exhibitions in Paris this January. Diane de Kergal's luminous sculptures, their shapes spun by silkworms, represent an extraordinary collaboration with nature. [...]

‘Diane de Kergal: Vers Soi’ at Galerie Gosserez (until 15th January 2021)

A forest of luminous sculptures, the shapes of which have been magically spun by silkworms, fills Diane de Kergal's first exhibition at Galerie Gosserez.

The half dozen pieces on display evoke trees of differing heights, topped with white, silk cocoons. Kergal, also an interior designer, began making them two years ago after becoming interested in working with light. Having focused on pure, minimalist lines in her projects for clients, she wanted to develop soft, organic forms when she began creating her own work. The question that arose was what material she should choose.



Diane de Kergal, 'Emergence VIII', 2021
COURTESY: Galerie Gosserez & Diane de Kergal

“I’ve always liked paper lamps, like [Isamu] Noguchi, so I looked for a natural material, similar to paper,” Paris-based Kergal says. One of her craftsmen recommended contacting the silk company Sericyne, which patented an innovative technique to create shaped silk in the mountainous Cévennes National Park – known for its silk-making heritage – in the south of France.



Diane de Kergal, 'Emergence VII', 2021
COURTESY: Galerie Gosserez & Diane de Kergal

The elaborate process involves Kergal making supple moulds, around which the silkworms spin silk in a controlled environment. Once the sheath-like work of the silkworms is completed, Kergal's moulds are taken out and LEDs are inserted. “What’s interesting about working with silk is that there’s a metamorphosis,” Kergal explains. Indeed, the title of the exhibition alludes to transformation, translating as “towards oneself” whilst being a pun on “ver à soie”, meaning silkworm.



Diane de Kergal, 'Emergence VI', 2021
COURTESY: Galerie Gosserez & Diane de Kergal

Kergal's captivating works, which are surprisingly sturdy, have already proven a hit: one of them has been acquired by the Mobilier National, which manages France's national furniture collection. “One doesn’t normally associate the Mobilier National with silk and craftsmanship, so I’m very moved,” Kergal says excitedly.

Diane de Kergal: Vers Soi is at Galerie Gosserez, 3 Rue Debelleyne, 75003 Paris, until 15th January 2022. POA.