

PKM GALLERY

Jorge Pardo

November 27, 2024 – January 11, 2025 | PKM

40, Samcheong-ro 7-gil, Jongno-gu, Seoul | T. 02 734 9467

PKM Gallery is pleased to present *Jorge Pardo*, a solo exhibition by Cuban-American artist Jorge Pardo (b. 1963), from November 27th, 2024, to January 11th, 2025. Globally recognized for exploring spatial aesthetics by merging design and fine art, Pardo returns to Korea for the first time in 22 years since his 2002 solo show at PKM Gallery. This exhibition features over 20 new works – including paintings, drawings, lamps, furniture, and textiles – that bridge the realms of art and everyday life.

Pardo has consistently expanded functional materials into the language of fine art through flowing light, vivid colors, and organic forms. His work embodies both aesthetic beauty and practicality, seamlessly crossing the genres of art, design, interior design, and architecture. The artist first gained international recognition in 1998 with the *4166 Sea View Lane* project at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, where he constructed a house on a Los Angeles hillside using wood, concrete, and glass, and designed the space with lamp installations. His decade-long *Tecoh* project (2012) in the Yucatán jungle, Mexico, remains a career milestone, converting a historic estate into a vibrant, habitable artwork—a space where one could quite literally "live inside a work of art." In 2018, his vision culminated with *L'Arlatan*, a hotel in Arles, France, where Pardo designed every detail, from floor and wall tiles to furniture, railings, and chandeliers.

This exhibition presents 14 hanging and sconce lamp sculptures created in 2023-2024, alongside custom-designed a cabinet, benches, and a carpet. Pardo's iconic lamp sculptures, part of an ongoing series since the 1980s, serve as drawings for exploring color, as sculptural works, and as functional lights that illuminate architectural interiors. These new pieces incorporate laser-cutting techniques, evoking the flexible structures of biological forms such as molecules, honeycombs, and spines.

The paintings and drawings adorning the walls are abstract compositions created by deconstructing and layering historical and personal imagery. Each titled *Untitled*, these works do not carry fixed meanings; instead, they invite moments of unexpected discovery—serendipity—as they are built up and observed. By freely navigating the boundaries between functionality and beauty, design and fine art, and even life and art, this exhibition offers viewers a unique experience to redefine their perception of space and time within a collective artistic environment.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Jorge Pardo studied biology at the University of Illinois at Chicago and received his BFA from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California. His solo exhibitions have been showcased at prestigious institutions worldwide, including the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen in Rotterdam, the Dia Center for the Arts in New York, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) in Los Angeles, the SCAD Museum of Art in Savannah, K21 in Düsseldorf, and the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) in Dublin. His projects have also been featured in major international events, such as *Skulptur Projekte Münster* (1997) and the *Venice Biennale* (2017). The artist has received numerous awards, including the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award (1995), the Smithsonian American Art Museum Lucelia Artist Award (2001), and the MacArthur Fellowship Award (2010). His work is included in prominent public collections including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, and Tate Modern, London.

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