

Emma Scully Gallery presents Rafael Prieto: 'Together over time'

A poetic showcase of aesthetic happenstance
April 6 - June 3, 2023



Rafael Prieto by Joe Kramm

Manhattan, New York – Emma Scully Gallery is proud to present 'Together over time,' a debut solo exhibition at the intersection of emotion and perception from avant-garde designer Rafael Prieto – Founder and Creative Director of creative studio Savvy – premiering April 6, 2023.

Encompassing furniture, sculpture, and lighting, this amalgamation of works born from Prieto's

singular creative vision speaks to the casualties of beauty through the lens of observation. "Going through each day, observantly and present in the natural world," Prieto says, is the founding principle of this interconnected showcase.

A natural elegance is at play with the materials chosen for these works – wood, glass, stone, ceramic – finding balance in gentleness and strength. From there, it's the placement and arrangement of each piece within the gallery that offers a new kind of spatial language that's open to interpretation to each viewer. "I see this as a concrete poem or haiku – something for others to engage with and feel connected to, as I do," says Prieto.

'Together over time' contains a total of nine works constructed from all-natural materials including:

- One coffee table made from cast glass, stone, wood and ceramic inlay*
- A first side table made from wood, stone and ceramic inlay*
- A second side table from cast glass, wood and ceramic inlay*
- A Marrow light, from the ongoing project in partnership with artist Loup Sarion
- Two upholstered stools and an upholstered bench, an extension of a furniture collection with Spolià
- Two sculptures that serve as the intellectual through-line of the exhibition: a pedestal made from stone, glass and wood, and a kite-like lamp made in tandem with artist and fashion designer Kritika Manchanda, made from raw, organic cotton, hung from the ceiling by a rope and grounded only by a stone
- Large scale wall mural courtesy of Wallpaper Projects - Photo taken by Rafael Prieto at the Museum Gipsoteca Antonio Canova, Possagno, Italy

*all ceramic inlays are made possible with the help of Atelier Lips

Three of these works – the coffee table and two side tables – were produced in close collaboration with Emma Scully Gallery. "Making was slow and intensive – it's an honor for the gallery to be a conduit for Rafael's creative intuition, through showing his artistic practice and through the production of the three tables on view. We have been working intimately together for over six months on production – in conjunction with local craftspeople – to capture his vision for this show. The result is a unique expression of his artistic and poetic output," says Emma Scully.

Rooted in intentionality and emotive strategy, Prieto is known for projects that evoke sophisticated wonder – from the serenely sculptural, linen light fixtures of Marrow to the meticulously artful chocolates of Casa Bosques. At the heart of his work, no matter its medium, is the miraculous boiling point of creative conception – the moment when something is born from nothing.

"I spent a lot of my childhood and younger years at my family's ranch in Chihuahua, in the north of Mexico, with a lot of empty hours. What I perceived as boredom then, I now see as contemplation. Observing the world around me, I would stare at the elements until they acquired a different form or meaning. When you immerse yourself into your environment and merge your perception with it, it can become something very special."

This evolution of perception is ever-present in 'Together over time' as the gallery has been fully

transformed into a space dedicated to Prieto's prolific point of view. "Through the view of a solo show, a room that is all Rafael's, visitors will be able to understand the magic of his unique perspective on the emotive connotations and evocative depths of design," says Emma Scully.

The show's title, 'Together over time,' is an homage to an interconnected way of thinking from *A New Philosophy of Society: Assemblage Theory and Social Complexity* by Mexican-American writer, artist and philosopher Manuel DeLanda. Prieto's work interacts with this theory through the idea of how art is the result of chance, chaos, and ultimately – life itself.

'Together over time' will be unveiled Thursday, April 6, 2023 and will remain on view through June 3 at Emma Scully Gallery in Manhattan.

About Rafael Prieto

Rafael Prieto (b. 1981, Mexico) is the Founder and Creative Director of Savvy, a New York and México City -based creative studio. Since founding Savvy in 2012, Prieto has brought his distinct perspective to the building of artistic, innovative and personal concepts in the arts, hospitality, retail, and more. Rafael is also the owner of Casa Bosques, an experimental, cult chocolate company, as well as Casa Bosques Books, an art-forward purveyor of literature in Mexico. He recently opened Pensión, a private guest house above the bookshop.

In the past year Prieto has been working on Marrow, a new lighting design studio, playing between function and sculpture. With Marrow, Prieto recently participated in internationally-acclaimed collectible design shows, including SIZED's INDUSTRIALISM exhibition in the West Village, and MASA's INTERVENCIÓN/INTERSECCIÓN exhibition at the Rockefeller Center.

www.savvy-studio.net

[@savvystudio](https://www.instagram.com/savvystudio)

[@rafaelsavvy](https://www.instagram.com/rafaelsavvy)

About Kritika Manchanda

Kritika Manchanda is an artist and designer born in India and based in New York. Her work spans across Fine Art and Textile, exploring themes of identity, space and memory. In her artistic approach, she critically examines colonial history as relates to the practice of dress in India. Manchanda creates works that seem to exist in a state of altered dimension and transparency, blurring the boundaries between physical and psychological. She was recognized with the 2018 CFDA Geoffrey Beene Scholarship Award and was a finalist for the 2019 Gucci Design Fellowship Program.

www.kritikamanchanda.com

[@kritikamanchanda](https://www.instagram.com/kritikamanchanda)

About Atelier Lips

Atelier Lips, founded in 2021, is a New York-based ceramic studio run by two sculpture-oriented artists. Lips is primarily focused on home goods, sculpturally crafted after objects found on construction sites. Lips also works on special commissions for hospitality businesses: restaurants, coffee shops, hotels, and cultural institutions (such as art galleries and artist studios); as well as many other unexpected collaborations.

www.atelierlips.com

[@atelier.lips](https://www.instagram.com/atelierlips)

About Emma Scully Gallery

Located in a 19th Century townhouse on the Upper East Side, Emma Scully Gallery presents thought-provoking, contemporary works that aim to answer the question of how design can gracefully move forward in today's material society facing superabundance, the ecological cost of overproduction and the shift from the physical to the digital world. A balance of established greats, undiscovered talents, and collaborative commissions, the gallery's conceptual programming is academically curated by Emma Scully, a creative professional well-versed in art history, design and decorative arts.

www.emmascullygallery.com

[@emma_scully_gallery](https://www.instagram.com/emma_scully_gallery)

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