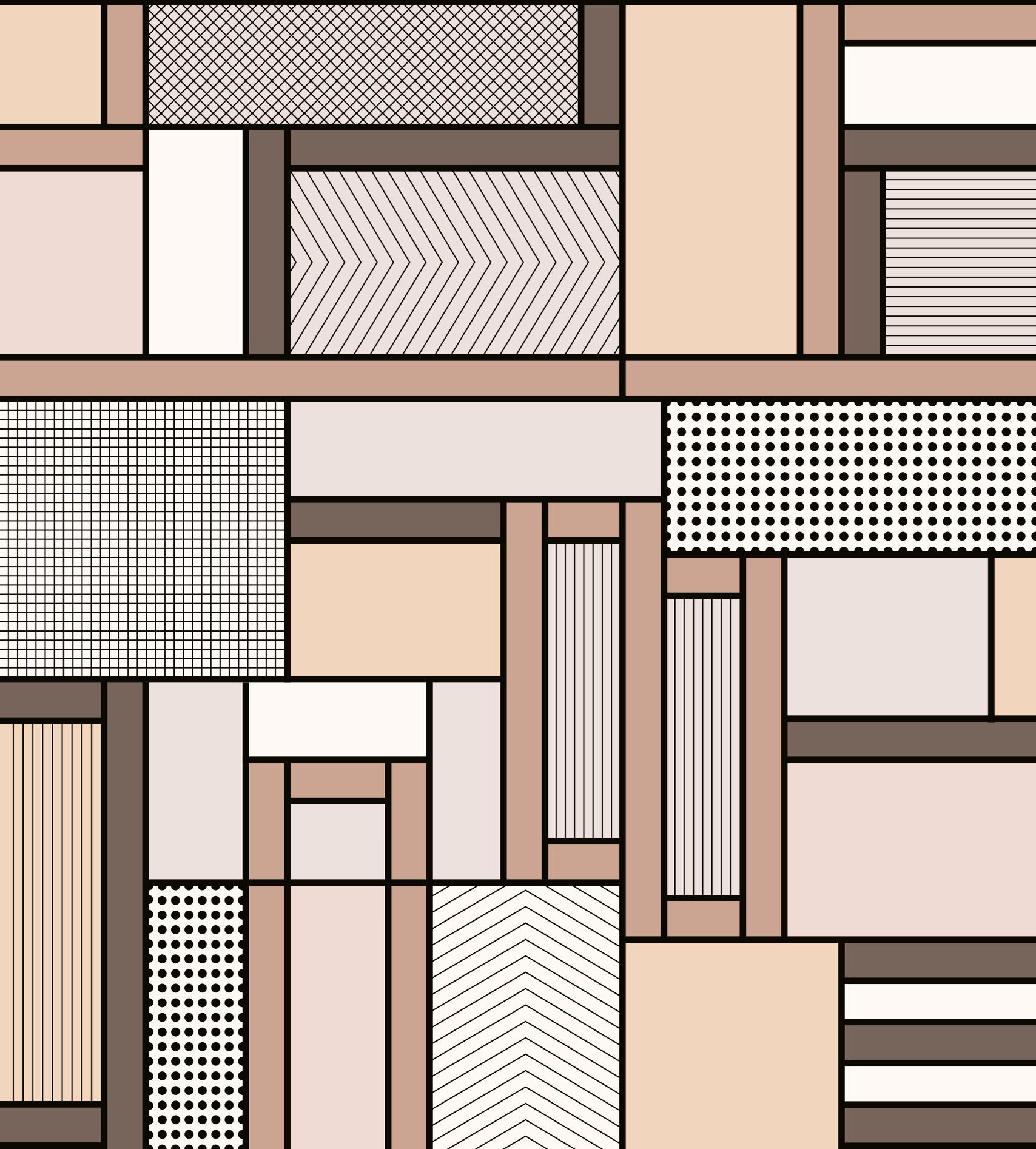


IMAGICASA

ARCHITECTURE - INTERIOR - ART - TRAVEL - CARS - LIFESTYLE / SUMMER 2020 / INTERNATIONAL £11 / BE-NL €12



SCULPTURAL DECORATIVE





The sculptural furniture, lighting and objects by German designer Pia Maria Raeder are true works of art reflecting her abstract interpretation of nature. With her 'Sea Anemone' and 'Stardust' collections, Raeder shows interior elements that are both functional and decorative and artistic, inspired by the beauty of underwater nature and the universe.

German visual artist Pia Maria Raeder draws inspiration from our natural world for her designs. 'Every piece reflects my abstract interpretation of nature and my adoration for this unique gift given to us, full of wonders, beauty and perfection,' she says. Using beech wood, the designer explores different shapes and with simple rods and pearls, Raeder creates the most beautiful sculptures based on sea creatures and the universe. 'Her sculptures have an emotional communicative presence. The breath of life seems to animate these organic creations, like the echo of a nature that is not imitated but is rather harnessed and experienced,' we hear at Galerie Béatrice Saint-Laurent, the Paris gallery representing Pia Maria Raeder. Raeder designs and makes all her pieces by hand in her studio in

'I TRIED TO CREATE A PIECE THAT WOULD SHOW A PART OF ME AND MY PERSONAL ABSTRACT INTERPRETATION OF THE BEAUTY OF NATURE'

Munich. Here, she gives free rein to all her creativity and experiments with different materials, colours, shapes and ideas. With very simple wooden elements she creates the most beautiful and impressive functional sculptures.

Raeder's talent and passion for sculpting only came to expression later in her career. She first completed a university degree in Political Science and worked as a television reporter for the RTL Group. In 2014, however, Raeder chose a completely different direction for her life and work. Her creative skills and the desire to deliver work that is valuable in the long term led her to a career as a designer and – as we can certainly call her – artist. 'It was not a rational decision, it was a feeling. I worked as a journalist and loved my job. But then my mother died and I felt I wanted to create something that expressed my feelings and will last. The beauty of nature has always had a strong impact on me, gave me peace and joy, so I tried to create a piece that would show a part of me and my personal abstract interpretation of the beauty of nature. Later, a good friend encouraged me to show my pieces to a gallery. When Galerie Béatrice Saint-Laurent took me on as an artist, I just could not believe it. It was like a dream,' Raeder says about her path to this creative career. But why is she expressing her vision and interpretation in sculptures



and not, for example, in words or paintings? 'That is easy to answer: I am terrible at drawing,' the designer answers. 'I don't think anyone is able to "read" my so-called sketches. And even though I was a journalist, it is a different story to express your own feelings than to describe emotion of others. Sculptural furniture allows me to show

Courtesy of Pia Maria Raeder & Galerie BSL

Stardust Mirror

all my emotions, without needing to find the one precise term. That is why I love to shape my pieces in organic forms, floating, changing, vibrant like a soul of a living creature.'

SEA & UNIVERSE

Imagicasa was immediately drawn to her 'Sea Anemone' collection, the series with which it all began for this designer. 'Of course I remember my first work well. I spent almost one year in a garage next to my home, trying different materials, shapes over and over again and slowly the vision I had in my head became clearer. That is how my first 'Sea Anemone Family' came to life: three side tables and two sculptures,' Raeder says. As the name suggests, the designs are inspired by sea anemones and that is clearly visible in the many rods that make up the designs. They are reminiscent of the tentacles of the sea creature. Raeder eventually designed chairs, side tables, coffee tables, mirrors and lighting in this style. They are all true works of art and look more like sculptures than furniture. Only when you take a closer look you can see that the pieces are both functional and decorative. Each piece in this series was made by hand and the thousands of white beech wooden rods were all individually shaped, lacquered and assembled. At first glance the



Sea Anemone, Side Table

designs seem to consist of stone or coral, but it is indeed wood. The rods were installed in a wave-like pattern that again refers to the sea as a source of inspiration. Because each piece is handmade, they are all unique. In some pieces there are as many as 700 working hours and 75,000 rods. The collection was exhibited for the first time at Galerie Béatrice Saint-Laurent in 2016. The gallery still represents Raeder and now her pieces are sold all over the world.

Pia Maria Raeder continues her exploration of nature in the most recent 'Stardust' series she released last year. Here, too, the name reveals what inspired this series, namely the universe. 'Just like everyone I am fascinated by the scene of a starry sky. We all instinctively feel the magnetic attraction of these suns' final splendours, as far as they may be. Living organisms are all made of this stardust that has crossed the universe for billions of years,' says Raeder. With her 'Stardust' series, she wants to give her own interpretation of this natural phenomenon. When you look at the pieces, benches and mirrors, with their shiny copper and silvery colour and texture of spheres of different sizes, it is indeed reminiscent of the galaxy.

For these works, Raeder once again used her familiar and favourite material: beech wood. This time in the form of half pearls in eight different sizes. You can already imagine that this, too, was an intensive and time-consuming piece of work. The pearl structure eventually undergoes a one-week metallizing process based on real silver. It is thanks to this last very technical step that the pieces get their amazing, changing and shiny reflections. Depending on the light and the angle in which you look at them, different shades shine from brown to pink and gold and from blue to black and silver. 'In tune with the intangible spectrum of colours launched by a supernova in fusion.'

The beautiful sculptural works of Pia Maria Raeder are a true reflection of how beautiful the sometimes mysterious nature can be. ✨



Sea Anemone, Armchair