

DESIGN WEEK 2026

Julie Hamisky's "Giardino Alchemico" on view at Pandolfini

In collaboration with Mitterrand gallery, the French artist brings her iconic electroplated flowers to Milan, exhibited at the headquarters of Italy's oldest auction house.

Milan, April 21 - Pandolfini Casa d'Aste, in collaboration with Mitterrand gallery, presents **Giardino Alchemico**, a solo exhibition of works by French artist Julie Hamisky, on view from April 22 to 26, 2026, during Salone del Mobile in Milan, in via Manzoni, 45.

The exhibition, organized within the Milan spaces of the auction house, bringing together a selection of sculptures and lighting works, the exhibition explores Hamisky's singular approach to **transforming ephemeral organic matter into enduring sculptural form**. Through her rigorous **electroplating technique** — immersing flowers, leaves, and vegetal elements in a galvanic bath through which an electric current circulates — the artist preserves the most intricate veins, folds, and textures of living material at the threshold of its decay.

Giardino Alchemico unfolds as a suspended garden, where fragility is transmuted into permanence. **Monumental and intimate works coexist**: in *La Géante* (2024), a poppy enlarged to near-architectural scale asserts both botanical precision and sculptural presence; in *Aqua* (2024), a chandelier composed of galvanized vegetal forms, nature becomes light-bearing structure. Sculptures such as *Bloom*, *Volcano*, and the *Still Life* series further articulate this dialogue between ornament, object, and autonomous form.

The presentation also includes a selection of Hamisky's **jewelry**, in which individual flowers and botanical fragments are preserved at their original scale. These **wearable works** distill the same process of transformation into intimate form, allowing the body to become a site of encounter with suspended nature. Whether monumental or miniature, each piece carries the imprint of a living specimen, captured at the moment before collapse.

Situated at the intersection of fine art and design, **Julie Hamisky's work** is - as the artist herself describes it - **a race against time** that begins with the selection of a fresh flower. The process remains partly unpredictable: «Variations in current, duration, and temperature produce subtle chromatic modulations, from deep greens and electric blues to lilacs and the warm tones of copper. Oxidation and fire complete the transformation, leaving delicate metallic shells that preserve every fold and vein of the organic origin,» explains Julie Hamisky. «You never truly know what the electroplating will produce; it is always a surprise. Sometimes decay highlights a specific feature, other times it transforms it completely,» the artist concludes.

This exhibition and the collaboration with Mitterrand gallery stem from the vision of **Pietro De Bernardi**, CEO of Pandolfini, who strongly supported the project, recognizing in Julie Hamisky's work an ideal synthesis of contemporary art, design, and artisanal tradition.

The initiative also reflects the auction house's broader commitment to opening its spaces to cultural and design-driven events capable of engaging both the city and an international audience. «Making our headquarters available for initiatives like this means transforming it into a vibrant place of encounter and discovery,» says De Bernardi. «We want Pandolfini to be not only a point of reference for the art market, but also a cultural space where different disciplines and visions can meet and generate new connections.»

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JULIE HAMISKY

Julie Hamisky (b. 1975) is a French artist and designer whose work explores the intersection of sculpture, ornament, and the body. Born in Fontainebleau and raised in the countryside south of Paris, she developed an early familiarity with material and form, learning to work with plaster in the studio of her father, the sculptor Kim Hamisky.

She began her artistic training in Paris at ESAG Penninghen and at ATEP, École d'Art et de Communication Visuelle. A formative year in Michoacán, Mexico, deepened her technical expertise, where she studied lost-wax casting, traditional goldsmithery, jewelry-making, and blacksmithing under sculptors James Metcalf and Ana Pellicer. This period established the foundation of her rigorous and materially grounded practice.

Granddaughter of Claude and François-Xavier Lalanne, Hamisky returned to France in 1999 to work in their studio, gaining a close understanding of their processes and sculptural philosophy. Specializing in electroforming and galvanoplasty, she captures the fragility of botanical forms by fixing them permanently in metal. Leaves, flowers, and organic fragments are preserved in their original texture, transformed into enduring metallic structures that balance delicacy and strength.

Situated between contemporary art and craftsmanship, her work extends beyond adornment. Each jewel is conceived as a small-scale sculpture, engaging with volume, surface, and light. Through meticulous fabrication, she transforms natural ephemera into lasting forms.

Julie Hamisky lives and works in Montreuil, France. Her practice both continues and renews the legacy of a family of artists for whom nature, craftsmanship, and sculpture remain inseparable, while asserting a distinct and contemporary artistic voice.

PANDOLFINI

Founded in Florence in 1924, Pandolfini is the oldest Italian auction house, with offices in Florence, Milan, and Rome. Among the national leaders in the art market, it has progressively expanded its departments, adding to antiques, paintings, furniture, and jewelry also fine wines, archaeological artifacts, Oriental art, and digital art. Innovative and attentive to the evolution of the sector, Pandolfini has strengthened its role through new evaluation criteria and the Pandolfini Live platform, which allows participants to take part in auctions in real time, attracting an increasing number of international buyers. With a network of experts and a strong presence across Italy, Pandolfini ranks among the leading players in the national market and enjoys international recognition.

MITTERRAND

Founded in 1988 by Jean-Gabriel Mitterrand and now presided over by Edward Mitterrand, Mitterrand gallery operates from two Paris locations: at 95 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, in a 1932 building whose spaces were redesigned in October 2024 by Belgian architect Bernard Dubois, and at 79 rue du Temple, in a 17th-century hôtel particulier in the Marais district.

Initially dedicated to contemporary sculpture, the gallery gradually expanded its program to include works by historical artists active from the 1950s onward. Since its creation, Mitterrand gallery has championed the work of French artists and those based in France such as Claude and François-Xavier Lalanne, Niki de Saint-Phalle, Anne and Patrick Poirier, Agustín Cárdenas, and Marta Pan, as well as international artists including Edi Hila, Allan McCollum, Tony Oursler, and Peter Kogler. It also works closely with the estates of Dennis Oppenheim, Francisco Sobrino, and Keith Sonnier to offer new perspectives on their legacies.

The gallery has always been committed to promoting works that are essential to our understanding of contemporary art. In recent years, it has incorporated into its program younger artists from diverse backgrounds and geographies, such as Wallen Mapondera, Katja Schenker, and Raphaël Zarka, reflecting the diversity and rich complexity of 21st-century creative processes. These new collaborations have fostered a dynamic intergenerational dialogue, highlighting the many paradoxes of a world that is both interconnected and fractured.

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