

## HOME STAGING. EYE LEVEL.

At Maniera, Hotel Danckaert / Villa Dewin, Brussels, Belgium

April 4 – May 24, 2025

Curated by SYBIL/ Laurence Dujardyn

Opening April 3rd, 2025, a remarkable exhibition will take place at the iconic Hotel Danckaert, also known as Villa Dewin, a heritage-listed Art Deco villa designed by renowned Belgian architect Jean-Baptiste Dewin in 1922. The exhibition, curated by Laurence Dujardyn (SYBIL) in partnership with MANIERA, explores the enduring legacy of Modernism through a unique dialogue between contemporary art and early 20th-century design.

Set against the backdrop of the villa's exquisite architecture, the exhibition explores home staging through functional objects from the MANIERA collection in interaction with works by contemporary artists Lucy McKenzie (b. 1977, Glasgow), Daniel Dewar (b. 1967, UK) & Grégory Gicquel (b. 1975, France), and Gauthier Oushoorn (b. 1986, Belgium). These are presented alongside iconic furniture pieces from the Wiener Werkstätte and Art Nouveau movements, including Adolf Loos (1870, Czechia -1933, Austria), Josef Hoffmann (1870, Moravia-1956, Austria), and Gustave Serrurier-Bovy (1858-1910, Liège, Belgium). These exceptional pieces, spanning from the early 20th century, reshape the dialogue and reflect the innovative spirit of Modernism, a movement that sought to redefine the world through art and design.

The exhibition examines Modernism not only as an aesthetic style but as a lens through which to understand the profound societal shifts of the period. The displayed works challenge traditional boundaries between fine art and applied art, while exploring themes of ethics against aesthetics, craft versus industry, tradition and the avant-garde, and the profound influence of design on human life. Often rooted in specific historical contexts, the works aim to reveal the ideologies embedded in architectural details, decorative motifs and functional elements. Viewers are invited to reflect on how both art and design can shape habits and foster well-being in a domestic context, while blurring the boundaries between both disciplines.

A special highlight of the show is the inclusion of the visionary work of Romanian artist Alexandru Chira (1947, Tauseni, Romania – 2011, Bucharest, Romania). His geometric paintings from the 1990s-2000s captivate by their Modernist appearance while being infused with complex, utopian, and deeply personal elements paraphrasing farm life while reflecting communist propaganda, more specifically on the industrial progress in agriculture. Chira's works add a layer of depth to the exhibition, interrogating the dichotomies between the mystical and the avant-garde, as well as the mythological and the scientific – themes that were central to the discourse of the early 20th century.

These art works and historic design pieces are thoughtfully placed throughout the house to interact with a curated selection of MANIERA's commissioned furniture and objects, many of which are prototypes and first models. These offer a glimpse into the designs of the various artists and architects that MANIERA has collaborated with over the past twelve years, bridging the world of architecture, design and art while creating a dynamic conversation between past and present.

The show takes place in a momentous year for Brussels, marking the 100th anniversary of the Art Deco movement. It will also be the final project organized by MANIERA at Villa Dewin, as the property is being sold (hence the "home staging"), making this an exceptional opportunity to experience this historic space in its current form.

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Opening hours: Thurs-Sat 2-6pm

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*SYBIL is a curatorial platform founded by Laurence Dujardyn in 2024 out of Brussels focusing on the intersection of contemporary art, historical perspectives and other disciplines such as architecture and design. The project operates in various locations and involves collaborations with other galleries or institutions.*