

downtown+

16–24 OCT. 2026

GHOSTS

AIS
WENDY ANDREU

OPENING
OCTOBER, 16 - 6.9 PM
11 RUE LAS CASES, 75007 PARIS

ghosts

On the occasion of Design Miami.Paris and Art Basel Paris, downtown+ returns to 11 rue Las Cases, bringing together the worlds of Wendy Andreu and Ais in an exhibition conceived around presence, transformation, and what remains.

Here, GHOST refers less to the ghost itself than to persistence: that of an object, a body, a gesture, or a memory which, though transformed or partially erased, continues to inhabit the present.

Through distinct practices — design and material experimentation for Wendy Andreu, painting for Ais — the two artists share a similar relationship to covering and transformation. Their works seem to begin with familiar forms or experiences, gradually shifting them into something else. For both artists, covering does not mean erasing; on the contrary, it becomes a way of revealing differently.



Wendy Andreu

Born in 1990, Wendy Andreu is a French designer whose practice lies at the intersection of design, craftsmanship, and material research. Trained at École Boulle in Paris and later graduating from Design Academy Eindhoven in 2016, she has developed an experimental approach in which the making process plays a central role.

Her work is notably defined by the creation of Regen, a composite material combining cotton rope and silicone, developed during her studies. Using this distinctive technique, Wendy Andreu creates objects, furniture, and textile surfaces whose graphic structures emerge directly from gesture and material. Her research explores the relationships between form, use, space, and craftsmanship, while placing particular emphasis on precision of execution and the physical presence of the works.

She received the Public Prize at the International Festival of Fashion and Photography in Hyères, as well as the Dorothy Waxman Textile Design Prize in 2017, and was named Rising Talent France at Maison&Objet in 2020. A resident at CIRVA in Marseille from 2022 to 2024, she was awarded the Grand Prix de la Création de la Ville de Paris in 2024, in the Révélation Design category.

Through an independent and deeply craft-based practice, Wendy Andreu transforms familiar materials and objects into new forms that are at once functional, sculptural, and narrative. Her work invites us to reconsider the value of objects, their potential for transformation, and the relationships they establish with the bodies and spaces around them.



Toga (by Sergio Mazza) Chair, 2026
Cotton, silicone, foam, fiberglass
Unique piece



Louis Ghost (by Philippe Starck) Chair, 2026
Cotton, silicone, foam, polycarbonate
Unique piece

Aisulu

Born in Almaty, Kazakhstan, Ais now lives and works in Berlin. Trained in fine arts at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, she has lived in France, the United States, and Singapore.

Her practice explores emotional bonds, intimacy, and human relationships. Her works address love, trust, family, security, and the desire for closeness. Drawing on memories, personal experiences, and lived relationships, her figures are not portraits. Their deliberately undefined identities allow viewers to project their own stories onto the gestures, gazes, and spaces that bring them together.

Her pictorial language is characterized by simplified forms, bold colors, and imagined compositions. Bodies draw close, support one another, or at times merge into a single entity. Beds, blankets, expanses of water, fields, and skies extend their inner states, becoming spaces of refuge, protection, or surrender. Her practice is rooted in an intuitive process, guided by music, color, and chance. Ais works through layers, erasures, and overpainting, allowing the image to emerge gradually rather than following a predetermined composition.

In her recent works, the figures seem absorbed in their own worlds, often with their eyes closed or their gaze turned away from the viewer. In response to the omnipresence of screens, the accelerating pace of life, and the diminishing attention we give to one another, Ais approaches painting as a space for pause and emotional reconnection. Her work invites us to slow down, to feel, and to remember the essential value of closeness, trust, and love.



“Let the sun stay under the horizon”, 2026
Mixed media on canvas, acrylic and oil
120 x 100 cm



“Je t’aime“, 2026
Mixed media on canvas, acrylic and oil
90 x 70 cm



“Dreamcatcher”, 2026
Mixed media on canvas, acrylic and oil
120 x 100 cm

In Ais’s paintings, this idea of persistence shifts from the object to intimate experience. Her works draw on memories, emotions, and lived relationships without ever attempting to reproduce them literally. Her figures are not portraits: their identities remain deliberately undefined, allowing each viewer to recognize something of their own story in the gestures and relationships they depict.

Bodies draw close, embrace, support one another, or at times merge together. Around them, familiar elements — beds, blankets, expanses of water, fields, or skies — extend their inner states and become spaces of refuge, protection, or surrender.

The very construction of the paintings echoes Wendy Andreu’s process. Ais works intuitively through layering, erasure, and overpainting, allowing the image to emerge gradually rather than following a composition determined in advance. Some forms appear while others disappear beneath successive layers. In this way, the painting itself retains the memory of what came before.



It is within this tension between appearance and disappearance that the two practices meet. Beneath Wendy Andreu’s textile material, the silhouette of an earlier object persists; behind Ais’s figures, experiences and memories surface whose stories we will never fully know. In both cases, something escapes the gaze while continuing to remain present.

Conceived as an inhabited interior, the exhibition extends this dialogue into space. Wendy Andreu’s seating encounters Ais’s painted figures, together composing a domestic environment that feels both familiar and slightly unreal. The furniture seems to await bodies; the painted bodies seem to belong to a space that continues beyond the canvas. The boundaries between painting and object, body and furniture, real space and represented space gradually become porous.

This domestic dimension is essential to both practices. Wendy Andreu transforms objects with which we maintain an everyday physical relationship; Ais places her figures in situations of intimacy, closeness, and withdrawal. Both are therefore less concerned with the isolated object or body than with the relationships we build with what surrounds us — people, things, and spaces to which we attach memory. Ais’s work in particular presents this closeness as a space for emotional reconnection in response to the acceleration of contemporary life and the diminishing attention we give to others.

GHOSTS

GHOSTS thus becomes the name for these silent presences.

The memory of a body in a chair.
The memory of an object beneath a new skin.
The trace of a gesture within a painting.

The memory of a relationship embodied in a figure that nevertheless represents no one in particular.

Through the works of Wendy Andreu and Ais, the exhibition reflects on our capacity to form attachments to shapes, objects, and people, and on the ways they continue to accompany us as they change.

What disappears is not necessarily erased. It may simply take another form.

downtown+

Created in 2023, downtown+ brings together carefully selected pieces from the Laffanour | Galerie Downtown collections and works by designers and artists from the young contemporary scene.

Over the decades, François Laffanour | Galerie Downtown has showcased the work of twentieth-century modernist architects, and gained worldwide recognition for its exhibitions of Jean Prouvé, Charlotte Perriand and Pierre Jeanneret. Luna Laffanour, who initiated this project born of the desire to take a fresh look at the Laffanour | Galerie Downtown's heritage, intends to explore the contours of the design gallery. Luna proposes a new perspective on these collections through a cycle of exhibitions and fairs, both physical and digital, where art and design meet.

During these recent events, downtown+ has showcased the work of designers and artists such as:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Ettore Sottsass | Tokujin Yoshioka |
| Gaetano Pesce | Leo Orta |
| Pierre Paulin | Bob Wilson |
| Pucci De Rossi | Tim Wilson |
| Gino Sarfatti | Zyva Studio & Sam Buckle |
| Philippe Starck | Theodore Psychoyos |
| Superstudio | Aleksandr Delev |
| Joe Colombo | Sam Chermayeff |
| Andrea Branzi | Nicolas Mehdi pour |
| Jun'ya Ishigami | Wendy Andreu |
| Sori Yanagi | Jerzsy Seymour |
| Archizoom | Miranda Webster |
| Yuji Yoshida | Jeremy Jaspers |

Featuring late 20th century and contemporary art and design



downtown+ 'trônes'
Exhibition
© downtown+



downtown+ trônes 2
Exhibition
© downtown+



downtown+ italia
Exhibition
© downtown+

downtown+ second skin
Exhibition
© Ivan Erofeev — downtown+



Luna Laffanour

Born in 1996, Luna Laffanour grew up between French and Japanese cultures through her parents, gallerist François Laffanour and artist Yumiko Seki. Guided by a strong sensitivity to aesthetics, creativity, and the arts, she first studied in England at the University of the Arts London, before graduating from École Camondo in 2020 with a degree in Interior Architecture and Design. She then pursued further studies at ESCP in the Management of Cultural Assets and Activities.

In 2021, she joined Laffanour | Galerie Downtown, founded in 1982 by François Laffanour, which has gained international recognition over the decades for its exhibitions dedicated to Jean Prouvé, Charlotte Perriand, and Pierre Jeanneret.

For Luna, continuing the Downtown story felt natural, as did the desire to carve out her own path, distinguish herself, and create something new. She believes strongly in interdisciplinarity and exchange, a conviction undoubtedly shaped by her bicultural background.

In 2023, Laffanour | Galerie Downtown, already known for its contemporary and forward-thinking approach, entered a new chapter with the creation of downtown+, a new department founded by Luna Laffanour. At the forefront of this project, she seeks to bring a fresh perspective to the gallery’s heritage through a cycle of exhibitions and initiatives, both physical and digital, where design and contemporary art come together.



Contacts

downtown+

 downtown.plus
www.plusdowntown.com

Founder:

– Luna Laffanour

luna@galeriedowntown.com

+337 62 48 23 49

Digital Marketing:

evan@galeriedowntown.com

+337 84 93 86 83

— Evan Naurais



Press:

233, rue Saint-Honoré,
75001 +331 42 71 20 46

— Grégoire Marot

gregoire@favoriparis.com

— Amy Ilona

amy@favoriparis.com

– Tanguy Diener

tanguy@favoriparis.com