

# Artist in the spotlight

## DIANA KORN ON 'WHAT MATTERS'

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This is an exclusive interview with Diana Korn by SmithDavidson Gallery.



Portrait of Diana Korn.

Diana Korn is a German artist with an international outreach. Before she started professionally working as an artist 6 years ago, she was already involved in art owing to a professional role in interior design. It took time to develop her artistic identity, a distinct language. Over time, she found her central theme 'What matters'. And her artworks reflect this by exploring the ambivalence of societal development.

Now, Korn has developed a distinct style, working with mixed media sculptures. "Some ideas simply require more than one material to be fully expressed," she explained. "Mixed media allows me to create layers of meaning both literally and figuratively. It also enables me to incorporate three-dimensionality and develop a unique visual language."

The influence of Pop Art plays a significant role in her work: mirrors are one of Korn's frequently used materials and elements from popular and commercial culture serve as inspiration. Korn is drawn to the immediacy of Pop Art, which she finds to speak a universal language. "It catches the eye instantly yet is layered with meaning—accessible and subversive at the same time. Its unique ability to be both playful and critical is exactly what I strive for in my own work," Korn stated. "I've always been fascinated by artists such as Warhol, Basquiat, and Lichtenstein. That's one of the reasons why I often weave references to them into my work, almost as a form of homage."



Diana Korn, Pop Art Pill (2025).

## Reflecting deeply on our society

Diana Korn often plays with societal notions of beauty and perfection, which is reflected in her mirror works through various fractures and texts. “Mirrors have been a central element of my work from the very beginning,” the artist said. “They offer me diverse ways to express my artistic vision and create a dialogue between the artwork and the viewer—sometimes provocative, sometimes playful, sometimes challenging.” For Korn, mirrors are fascinating because they invite us to look deeper, at ourselves and the world. At the same time, they fulfil a high aesthetic standard that is always fundamental in her work.



Diana Korn, *I Licked It so It's Mine* (2024).

Her mirror works explore vanity, identity, and the tension between our true selves and the curated image we present to the world. Through the manipulation of angles and perspectives, she draws a new reality from the depths of the mirror. “I was inspired by the idea that a mirror never lies, but it also never reveals the whole truth,” she added.



Diana Korn, *Adrenalin Pill – Ferrari I* (2024).

“With my work, I want to encourage deeper reflection while also bringing a playful smile to the viewer’s often too serious face. For me, humor and seriousness are equally essential parts of life.”

Another phenomenon Korn is occupied with, is consumerism, characterised by contradictions. Her recent Art Pill – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Drug series reflects on and questions the polarity of our consumption behavior through a unique sculptural language that is inspired by medicinal pills. Engaging with both the positive and often hidden adverse effects of consumerism, her intention was for viewers to feel attracted to the sculptures, yet simultaneously also feel prompted to critically question it.

While lifestyle choices, technological and societal advancements, and innovations enrich and advance our lives on one hand, they also distract us from the truly significant aspects of life on the other. Art Pill combines craftsmanship, high design standards, Pop Art influences, and conceptual thinking—every material, color, and proportion was deliberately chosen to make the works appear almost flawless, to draw attention to the seductive nature of consumerism. And, ultimately, the message is in the fine print, often overlooked and intentionally hidden.

## EMERGING ARTIST

“Diana Korn’s artwork seamlessly fuses elements of modern architecture and design with the realm of light reflection sculpture, always striking a balance between straightforwardness and creative expressiveness. Remarkably, after only a year of gallery representation at SmithDavidson Gallery, Korn’s sculptures have already been exhibited internationally at various art fairs, such as Art Miami, The Palm Beach Show in Florida, and KunstRAI Amsterdam. Soon, her work will also be on display at PAN Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Looking back on this flying start of her career, what Korn values the most, are the spontaneous, honest reactions from viewers, as they give true meaning to her work. “At the same time, it is a great honor to be internationally recognized and exhibited—sharing space alongside prominent figures like Warhol and Koons, and having my work acquired by some of the same collectors,” Korn added. “Working with SmithDavidson, I’m particularly proud of being represented with nine pieces at the Art Miami fair after just one and a half years of gallery representation. My belief in the relevance of my message, along with the invaluable support from SmithDavidson Gallery, which champions me as an artist, form the essential foundation of my journey.”



Diana Korn with *Fashion Pill - Chanel (2024)* at the subway station

In the future, Korn hopes to comment on the advancing role of technology with her artworks, as this topic preoccupies her mind. “I believe that we live in turbulent times, where the influence of society, trends, and technology will transform our world more than ever before. While this may bring certain benefits, it also creates profound societal challenges,” she observed. Additionally, she pursues other goals, such as museum representation or collaborations with brands. “For me, it’s above all important to have a lasting presence as an artist—to create work that endures over time. This means constantly evolving, both in how I engage with societal issues and in my own self-reflection. Taking risks and making mistakes is an essential part of that process.”