

Hem

Everyday reflections

Hem X presents Intrusive Thoughts by Ellen Pong

A mirror-meets-memo board collection commissioned by Superhouse



Intrusive Thoughts by Ellen Pong for Hem X. Photography by Adrianna Glaviano.

Hem X – Hem’s exclusive platform for limited-edition designs, artist collaborations and boundary-pushing experiments – presents an exclusive work from the NYC-based ceramic artist and designer Ellen Pong.

Motivated by curiosity, creativity and collaboration, Hem X is Hem’s dedicated initiative to celebrate and showcase the next-generation creatives who are set to define the design world of tomorrow.

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Pong is the first US-based artist in Hem X's vanguard. Having never formally studied ceramics, Pong has entered the art and design world as an outsider, and brings a fresh point of view and a distinctly unconventional approach to her craft, free from preconceptions, and often combining unexpected materials and forms.



Developed in collaboration with New York art and furniture gallery Superhouse, which hosted Pong's first solo show in 2023, *Intrusive Thoughts* is a series of two sculptural mirrors that set out to explore the imaginary lives of everyday objects.

Working with ceramic and stainless steel, Pong has inserted a ceramic tile with an irreverent bas-relief scene in the centre of a mirror, a direct obstruction, and created a surrounding set of magnetic ceramic buttons that can be dynamically rearranged on the mirror's surface, encouraging interaction and ensuring the piece is constantly evolving. The buttons also offer utility, transforming the mirror into a functional magnet board where notes, photos, and lists can be pinned – punctuating the user's reflection by things they want to remember.

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“I often think about utility and futility, and the absurdity of imagining something in the middle. Most objects are either useful or not. To be in-between is kind of funny. What’s the point of a mirror that you can’t see yourself in? Maybe the multi-functionality of Intrusive Thoughts reveals a kind of absurdity in demanding an object to perform so many tasks simultaneously. As it becomes more useful as a magnet board, it becomes less useful as a mirror. That’s fine.”

– Ellen Pong

Like much of Pong’s work to date, *Intrusive Thoughts* is playful, almost naïve, in its expression. Driven by curiosity and experimentation – traits shared by all Hem X creators – *Intrusive Thoughts* encapsulates the irreverent energy and innovation that animates the platform, furthering its mission to empower visionary artists and designers who share Hem’s dedication to creativity and innovation.

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"I am honored to have collaborated with Hem on their first Hem X launch in the US. From the start, I knew Ellen's work would be the perfect match for the program. Her characteristic blend of humor and intellect made her an ideal candidate to work with the brand. The mirrors that she created are ingenious. It's functional, but also not and has a great sense of play. I hope this piece opens new opportunities for artists working with the Hem X program in the US." – Stephen Markos, founder and director, Superhouse

The exclusive collaboration comprises 12 mirrors, six featuring bas-relief ducks and six featuring bas-relief boots. The 12 editions in Hem X's exclusive series are made by hand, so each piece is unique.

For more information about Hem at NYCxDesign, contact hem@zetteler.co.uk.

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Hem at NYCxDesign

The Sweden-born design brand Hem bolsters its reputation for pushing the creative envelope with a trio of startlingly original launches at NYCxDesign.

From 16–23 May, Hem’s SoHo studio serves as a showcase for the latest pieces from the uncompromisingly creative brand and its limited-edition artistic collaborations platform, Hem X.

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From Ellen Pong's sculptural journey through the looking glass for Hem X, to Marco Campardo's bold, beautifully blocky Bullnose seating, to iconic and offbeat 1960s glassware Swedish legend Erik Höglund, Hem's new launches straddle art and design, classic and contemporary, functional and fantastic.

Ostensibly very different, the three designs on show at the 12th edition of NYCxDesign are united by their confident expression, gleefully exaggerated details, uncompromising materiality and impeccable craftsmanship – testament to Hem's unwavering dedication to 'imaginative designs of obsessive quality'.

Join Hem on Friday 17 May for its Open House Party – an opportunity to explore the latest releases and familiar favourites – including the new Bullnose Chair by Marco Campardo, Worm Coffee Tables by Soft Baroque, and the Puffy Sofa by Faye Toogood – alongside limited-edition objects from the Hem X series, curated by New York-based gallery Superhouse.

Friday 17 May, 5–9pm
Hem's Open House Party
Hem SoHo Showroom
460 Broome Street #201 (Level 2)
New York City, 10013
RSVP: hem@thelast.agency

For more information about Hem at NYCxDesign, contact Bradley Kal Hagan, b@thelast.agency

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Notes for editors

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Prices, product information and availability:

- Materials: Ceramic and Stainless Steel
- Limited edition of 12
- Price: €529 / \$599 / £479 GBP
- Available online: 29/05/2024

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An independent design brand and platform for innovation, Hem believes great design can enrich lives. Collaborating with vanguard designers and renowned European manufacturers, Hem creates the auction pieces of tomorrow, bringing truly unique furnishings to those unwilling to compromise on design, quality or sustainability.

hem.com

Ellen Pong

Originally from the West Coast, Ellen Pong lives and works in Queens, New York. She graduated with a degree in art history from the University of California, Berkeley, before launching her career as a designer and ceramicist. Pong's self-taught practice blends sensorial observations from both the Pacific Northwest and the chaotic streets of New York City to create furniture, lighting, and objects with a studied playfulness. She has held a solo exhibition at Superhouse and participated in group exhibitions at Emma Scully Gallery and Objective Gallery in New York and Marta in Los Angeles.

ellenjpong.com

Superhouse

Superhouse is a New York-based gallery specializing in art furniture and design, showcasing both contemporary and historical works. Founded and directed by Stephen Markos, the gallery's programming is deeply rooted in a profound understanding and appreciation of design and art history. The gallery stages exhibitions and events exploring material, technology, function, and narrative, with a particular focus on contemporary design, 1980 art furniture, and craft. Superhouses' roster of artists and designers spans Africa, the Americas, and Europe, offering the gallery's community diverse global perspectives.