

DERNIER CRI

DERNIER CRI UNVEILS INAUGURAL EXHIBITION: NIGHT SHIFT

Group Exhibition Gathers Works United by A Single Premise: Each Is Rendered Entirely in Black

NEW YORK, Jan. 29, 2026 — “Every room needs a touch of black.” Long embraced by many of the great interior designers, the maxim speaks to black’s uncanny ability to anchor a space, sharpen the eye, and reveal form. *Night Shift*, the inaugural exhibition at the new Upper East Side gallery **Dernier Cri**, extends that idea to its purest expression, with a group show that opens on January 29th, 2026.

Unfolding in the dark depths of winter, *Night Shift* gathers works united by a single premise: each is rendered entirely in black. For this debut, Dernier Cri founder **Michael McGraw** has commissioned a select group of artists and designers to create new work in which darkness becomes both subject and medium. A study in how absence reveals presence, these pieces explore the artistry of restraint, illuminating how form, texture, and light shift within the limits of a single hue. Like flowers that bloom at night, beauty reveals itself in the dark. *Night Shift* reminds us that darkness is not the opposite of illumination, but rather its beginning.

Highlights from *Night Shift* include:



Doncaster, UK-based artist and designer [Julian Mayor](#) is best known for his work in welded mirror stainless steel, developing the forms with digital technologies and then making each piece by hand using traditional craftsmanship techniques. Mayor studied at the Royal College of Art under **Ron Arad**, and taught 3D modelling at University of the Arts London while developing his own practice. His work has been exhibited at the V&A London, the Museum Of Art & Design NYC and MUDAC Lausanne. The **Fernando Chair** is one of Mayor’s landmark pieces, originally created in 2007; it was one of the first chairs that he developed in welded sheet metal. The chair is made of triangulated planes in mirror stainless steel, welded together by hand in the artist’s

studio. Exclusively for *Night Shift*, Mayor has for the first time designed the Fernando chair with a black, anodisation-like coating that changes the atmosphere of the piece into something almost Gothic in appearance and feeling.



North Carolina-based designer [Casey Johnson](#)'s work explores the intersection of primal energy and the underlying structural order found in the natural and built world. Hand-carved wood beams shaped into biomorphic forms with receptor-like branches emphasize the raw, untamed life force and inherent natural geometry. The

branch-like elements act as a sort of nervous system or sensory network, "receiving" and contrasting with the surrounding space and light. This is the visceral manifestation of an inner wilderness. These forms are juxtaposed with clean, industrial tubular steel bases, a contrast that highlights the tension and harmony between the organic and the man-made, the wild and the structured, instinct and the ego. This interplay of materials and forms is his visual language for representing the balance (or conflict) between our wild nature and a domesticated existence.

Two artists will be making their US debut in the *Night Shift* exhibition: Greece-based sculptor [Todd Marshard](#) and Dutch abstract artist [Marit Harte](#).

After a long and successful career as a fashion photographer in New York City, **Todd Marshard** is now based on the island of Paros, Greece, and has shifted his creative focus to clay, drawn by its tactile immediacy and expressive possibilities. The works in this exhibition are hand-built using high-fired terra-cotta stoneware. Black high-fire stoneware slip, black terra sigillata, and iron oxide are layered to create depth within the surface, allowing the black to shift and reflect, as if viewed beneath the sea. His forms echo the contours of Paros — weathered stone, bleached wood, and Cycladic simplicity — and embrace the irregularities and imperfections of handbuilding. Each piece reflects a quiet dialogue between material, memory, and place.



Marit Harte translates the raw power of nature into abstract sculptural artworks that balance simplicity and intensity. Nestled deep within a UNESCO Natura 2000 World Heritage landscape in the Netherlands, Harte does not merely observe nature—she exists within it. Her three-dimensional paintings, mirrors, and sculptures embody the delicate balance between strength and vulnerability, power and fragility. With each unique piece she aims to evoke a sense of wonder and a deeper appreciation for the natural world.



Harte works with a unique mix of materials she discovered through extensive experimentation, often incorporating discarded and reclaimed elements. Her process is repetitive and meditative—layering, drying, sanding—allowing textures and depth to emerge organically. On view in this exhibition are Harte's *Rippling Air*: mixed media on canvas (mix of plaster, acrylic sealant, foam, acrylic paint, paper-maché) and *Mirror Black Small*: mirror glass and mixed media on wood (mix of plaster, acrylic sealant, foam, acrylic paint, paper-maché). Harte embraces imperfection as a testament to time and transformation. Her creations do not demand attention, but command a quiet reckoning.

Other *Night Shift* participating artists include: **Robert Bristow**, **Chapter & Verse**, **Windy Chien**, **Casey Johnson**, **Benjamin Kapoor**, **Jessie Nelson**, **Pilar Proffitt**, **Marius Ritiu**, and **Ara Thorose**.

Night Shift is the first exhibition at Dernier Cri, a new Upper East Side gallery founded by Michael McGraw, whose eponymous PR firm represents some of the most celebrated design talents of our time.

“Opening a gallery is the perfect complement to my growing, always-evolving PR practice,” says McGraw. “It expands my ability to champion more creatives and connect their work with those who are passionate about design. I am obsessed with discovering new voices, and I am equally excited to spotlight established artists doing their best work.”

For nearly two decades, McGraw has helped shape the public personas of architects and interior designers through the stories that surround their work. His eye has been honed through years of immersion in editorial design culture — pouring over what gets published and what gets passed over. That same editorial sensibility now defines McGraw’s curatorial vision at Dernier Cri. Every object represented by the gallery is selected not just for its visual impact, but also for the story it tells — or the one it invites.

“I am endlessly fascinated by artists’ histories and how their lived experiences have gotten them to where they are, creating what they create,” continues McGraw. “We are all shaped by our past, and how artists channel their experiences into physical objects — a painting, a sculpture — piques my interest. I seek out work that elicits an emotional response, whether that is delight,

surprise, or wonder, or simply provokes reflection and dialogue. Sometimes, it might be a kind of beauty that you feel before you understand.”

Night Shift opens on Jan. 29, 2026, at Dernier Cri, 247 East 60th Street, Fl. 2, New York. The exhibition runs through March 5, 2026.

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