

# ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

Exhibition

## Gold Still Has the Midas Touch, As One New York Show Proves

Demisch Danant's exhibition of new Jos Devriendt lamps is generating buzz

By [Madeleine Luckel](#)

*You Are Gold* is open until December 14 at Demisch Danant's West 12th Street location. The gallery specializes in French midcentury designers such as Pierre Paulin, whose curving chairs would pair nicely with Devriendt's own works. Photo: Courtesy of Demisch Danant



"To say to somebody 'You are gold' means *you are very special to me*," Devriendt says, when speaking about the exhibition's name. "So in a way, these pieces have a purpose that is sort of philosophical." Photo: Courtesy of Demisch Danant

"Can't wait to see this!!" artist [Johnny Thornton](#) wrote. In the comments section of [another post](#), Nicole Bunn of [Savelle Marcs Design](#) applauded, "Gorgeous!" And as for [AD100 designer Rodman Primack](#) and interiors photographer [Stephen Kent Johnson](#)? A series of [heart](#) and [heart-eyes emoji](#) got their mutual points across.

The focus of this collective (and highly positive) cri de coeur is [Demisch Danant](#) gallery's new exhibition, which opened this week in New York. The show, titled *You Are Gold*, centers on 40 new gold (and bronze) lamp designs by Belgian artist [Jos Devriendt](#).

“The cast-bronze and gold-plated pieces were specially made for this show,” Devriendt explains. “On the inside you can see the beauty of the poured channels from the bronze casting.” Photo: Courtesy of Demisch Danant



Above and at right are examples of bronze lamps included in the exhibition that have not received the golden touch, yet are undeniably appealing designs. Photo: Courtesy of Demisch Danant

For her own part, Suzanne Demisch, one half of the duo behind the New York gallery, is well aware of the reaction that the show has been sparking. “We have had an overwhelming response,” she tells AD PRO. “Our staff has been fielding a huge volume of interest.” That interest has been building since Demisch Danant debuted its first solo exhibition of Devriendt’s mushroom-like lamps in 2017. “People like these designs so much and wish that there were more of them, instead of such a comparatively small number,” Demisch notes. “But what makes Jos’s work so special is exactly that: Each piece is unique—hand-thrown and hand-glazed. They have a very human appeal to them.”

“I’m not designing a lamp, per se, but rather the lamp is a vehicle to express my artistic concept of night and day, of light as something that sculpts our perception,” Devriendt says.

Photo: Courtesy of Demisch Danant



As if perspective visitors needed another reason to go see the show, Demisch promises a surprise—related to the installation of the lights. Photo: Courtesy of Demisch Danant

Devriendt has been consistently inspired by nature in his work, which makes curvilinear shapes an ongoing font of inspiration. But his mushroom silhouettes, lovable as they may be, are not a novelty for Devriendt—who has been working with that form for the past 20 years. In the case of these latest works, it's their surface treatments that make them stand so brightly out. "This is the first time I've applied the gold glazes to my Night and Day pieces," Devriendt explains to AD PRO. "Their reflective surfaces work like a mental mirror—they reflect everything around the object, while making you aware of time and context."

And what of that specific, famous hue? "Gold has also been seen as a precious material, and as something we associate with beauty, since antiquity," Devriendt reflects. When asked whether she thinks that these new works are indicative of a wider moment of popularity for reflective yellow-golds, Demisch exclaims, "Indeed! But the truth is that gold—and metallic elements, generally—have always been cherished in the design world." Very true. Plus, as the buzz surrounding this exhibition shows, it's far from letting up.