

# designboom

## Mattias Sellden on His Animistic Sculptural Furniture for Friedman Benda's Design in Dialogue

July 27, 2022



### DESIGN IN DIALOGUE: MATTIAS SELLDEN

On April 1, 2020, New York gallery [Friedman Benda](#) initiated a series of online interviews aimed at connecting individuals across the world with leading voices in the creative field. [Design in Dialogue](#) is a conversational program hosted alternately by curator and historian Glenn Adamson and designer Stephen Burks that engages with designers, makers, critics, and curators as they reflect on their careers and creative processes. Against the backdrop of [COVID-19](#) and global lockdowns, the conversations are held virtually on zoom for 1 hour for anyone in the world to tune in to, and include a participatory Q&A with the audience in attendance. Friedman Benda has since presented more than 90 episodes, each offering unparalleled insight into the sensibilities, musings, and memories of today's creative protagonists. See our recent feature of [Misha Kahn on combining technology and handcraft](#) and [Chris Schanck on his otherworldly alufoil creations](#).

"Mattias Sellden on His Animistic Sculptural Furniture for Friedman Benda's Design in Dialogue", *designboom*, July 27, 2022.

Design in Dialogue returns for a conversation with the Swedish designer-maker Mattias Sellden, whose work is featured in an ongoing exhibition at Friedman Benda in New York. Interviewed by co-hosts Glenn Adamson and Stephen Burks, Sellden shares an overview of his creative practice, with a focus on his sculptural furniture pieces of remarkably animated character. His polychromatic objects are made of different kinds of wood, intuitively arranged into compositions that maintain the planks' natural topology and features. Each composition results in a unique piece, whose form is developed in response to lengths of timber.

Watch the full video interview above, and learn more about the work of Mattias Sellden and his ongoing exhibition at Friedman Benda below.



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## MATTIAS SELLDEN | THADDEUS WOLFE EXHIBITION AT FRIEDMAN BENDA

Until August 12, 2022, Friedman Benda presents a joint solo exhibition of work from artists Mattias Sellden and Thaddeus Wolfe at its New York gallery space. At the intersection of art, craft, and design, Sellden and Wolfe create one-of-a-kind, angular, geometric pieces that pair traditional process methods with radical, out-of-the-box approaches. Both artists elevate their chosen material by embracing its irregularities and emphasizing its features through an explorative and playful application of color. With no formal urgency to be pushed into any typological category, both artists' work presents an opportunity to renegotiate value systems in the field.

Mattias Sellden's materially-led, technique-driven and completely hands-on process transforms pieces of wood into intuitively arranged compositions, with each form fixed using relatively simple joinery. Applying variously opaque or transparent paints, instinctively guided by what feels right, the resulting, animistic sculptural furniture compositions are imbued with Sellden's humanizing sensibility. In producing the works for the exhibition, Sellden has increasingly leant into Andrea Branzi's neoprimitive style and his postulations about objecthood post electronic revolution as noted in his 1985 book, *Domestic Animals*. At once seemingly ancient and alien, Sellden's works can be found at the intersection of sculpture and furniture. The designer himself states that he 'makes dysfunctional furniture that easily could be mistaken for sculpture. Or maybe it's the other way around? Very capable sculpture that could be confused with a coatrack if you were in a hurry.'



installation view



Mattias Sellden, Jaques Cousteau and the Coral Boy, 2021



installation view



Mattias Sellden, *Aeroplane/Behemoth*, 2021

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Mattias Sellden, Ahab, 2021



Mattias Sellden, Spinal Spiral, 2021



Mattias Sellden, Maybe you can use it for your Stereo, 2021

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Mattias Sellden, Odysseus, 2021



Mattias Sellden, Red Chair, 2021



Mattias Sellden, Örat (The Ear), 2021



Mattias Sellden, Wavy Wade Walker, 2021



Mattias Sellden, Sunset Giraffe, 2021

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Mattias Sellden, Will I Ever See The Mediterranean Sea Again?, 2021



**project info:**

exhibition name: Mattias Sellden | Thaddeus Wolfe

location: Friedman Benda, New York City

duration: July 14 – August 12, 2022

Design in Dialogue is a series of online interviews presented by New York-based gallery Friedman Benda that highlights leading voices from the field — designers, makers, critics, and curators — as they discuss their work and ideas. Hosted alternately by curator and historian Glenn Adamson and designer Stephen Burks, the conversations are held on Zoom for 1 hour and include a participatory Q&A.

Watch the full video interview with Mattias Sellden in this article and stay tuned as designboom continues to share design in

dialogue features. see all past episodes [here](#).