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A Dutch dreamer from the small town of Boxtel, Wanders graduated from the School of the Arts Arnhem in 1988. Since then he has worked prolifically, inventing and reinventing objects and interiors for many international clients, including Louis Vuitton, Maison & Objet, and Hyatt Hotels. His pieces have been acquired by institutions such as Amsterdam's Stedelijk Museum and New York's Museum of Modern Art. Today Wanders presides over an eponymous design studio in Amsterdam that uses unexpected materials and innovative techniques. "Portraits," a solo exhibition of his works runs through April 9 at Friedman Benda gallery in New York.

MARCEL WANDERS

A HUMANIST RENAISSANCE

"I believe we have closed the doors on modernism and passed the period of postmodernism. We are now entering a contemporary renaissance of humanism, understanding that man is more than his brain, and rationalism cannot provide answers to the largest challenges we face. Even though our culture has moved on, design has decided to gently roll back into its comfortable modern position. It's perhaps only in the outskirts of the culture of design that real problems are solved. What we need for the cultural development of objects is a more mature, complete, and holistic design philosophy. We will see a return to the poetic and the hopeful, the truly human and romantic. But regardless of what is around the corner, for me, both professionally and privately, the need to express myself more completely and the desire to recognize myself in the things I do are the main priorities right now."

A trio of works by Marcel Wanders includes Dystrophobia 3, 2016, above, inlaid clear glass, glass coating, and stainless steel; Templar, 2016, left, in bronze and rubber; and opposite, Pharaoh 4, 2013, of mohair, woven, microfibre, LLDPE lights, and steel wire. All are on view at Friedman Benda through April 9.