

## *Karla Black*

May 5 – June 18, 2026

Opening on Tuesday, May 5 from 6 – 8 pm

NEW YORK, NY (APRIL 15, 2026)—Rodder is pleased to announce *Karla Black*, the artist's debut exhibition with the gallery and her first exhibition in New York since 2016. The presentation inaugurates the gallery's expanded Upper East Side space, occupying the entirety of the fifth floor at 22 East 80th Street.

Karla Black is regarded as one of the most significant sculptors of her generation. Her work has been the subject of institutional exhibitions internationally and is held in major museum collections. Black's practice is distinguished by a physical examination of the world that extends in a distinct direction from metaphorical and symbolic references. The work is situated between form and anti-form; the material is both subject and method.

Using a combination of traditional materials such as plaster, chalk, paper, and paint, as well as everyday substances including make-up, toilet paper, feather dusters, and bath bombs, Black's work privileges process, scale, and physical encounter. Often made on-site, her work is imbued with the conditions of its making, retaining relics of the immensely somatic and personal process.

For this exhibition, Black transforms the gallery into a Rococo interior, painting directly on large mirrors with Baroque silhouettes, their scale and contours recalling palatial splendour, the dream of a bygone era marked with overexcess. A group of delicate, but monumental sculptures stand poised among the mirrors. Throughout the exhibition, Black employs her characteristic palette of pale hues and ephemeral materials to permeate the room with work marked by the unconscious.

By obstructing the mirror's reflective function, Black redirects the viewer's attention away from their own image and toward material presence. Her work often resists fixed meaning, instead situating the viewer within a sensory experience. Transitioning between the decorative and the spontaneous, the immaterial and the material, Black continues to redefine and extend the definition of contemporary sculpture.

**ABOUT KARLA BLACK** — Karla Black (b. 1972, Alexandria, UK) lives and works in Glasgow, United Kingdom. She received a BFA in sculpture (1999), an MPhil in art in organisational contexts (2000), and an MFA in fine arts (2004), all from Glasgow School of Art.

In 2011, Black was both nominated for the Turner Prize and represented Scotland at the Venice Biennale. Her numerous solo exhibitions include Kunstraum Dornbirn, Austria (2025); Bechtler Stiftung, Uster, Switzerland (2024); New Art Gallery Walsall, Walsall, UK (2023); Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh, UK (2021); Des Moines Art Centre, Iowa, US (2020); Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (2016); Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2016); Dallas Museum of Art (2012); Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow (2012); among others.

Black's work is held in important public and private collections worldwide including the Dallas Museum of Art; Tate, London; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh; and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, New York.



Credit: Karla Black's studio, taken by the artist. Glasgow, Scotland, 2026.