

Rodder Announces Representation of Karla Black and Forthcoming Exhibition in May 2026

NEW YORK, NY (NOVEMBER 20, 2025) — Rodder is pleased to announce the representation of renowned Scottish artist [Karla Black](#) (b. 1972, Alexandria, UK) alongside Galerie Gisela Capitain and Modern Art. Her debut exhibition with the gallery will be in [May 2026](#), marking her first exhibition in New York in ten years, in what will then be the significantly expanded Upper East Side gallery, occupying the entirety of the fifth floor at 22 East 80th Street.

Karla Black's exploration of the psychology and emotionality of materials and texture has greatly impacted the language of contemporary sculpture. Last week, Black was awarded the prestigious Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award For Artists and has most recently been the subject of a monumental solo exhibition at Kunstraum Dornbirn, Austria. Black was nominated for the Turner Prize and represented Scotland at the 54th Venice Biennale in 2011.

Karla Black makes works that investigate the physical and psychological qualities of the materials that fill her everyday surroundings. Working with modest, readily available substances—such as paper, cellophane, cosmetics, bath bombs, soil, polystyrene, Sellotape, and Vaseline—she chooses these materials for their sensory, visual, and tactile appeal rather than for any symbolic meaning. Through a process of experimentation and transformation, Black pushes these materials to the limits of their physical potential, reshaping them into distinctive, abstract forms. Her sculptures often appear to hover in mid-air, hang from the ceiling, cling to walls, or spread across floors and surfaces in delicate layers of chalky pastel tones. Black typically constructs her sculptures directly in the space where they will be presented. They emerge from her automatic instincts and reactions, an attempt to elicit an impetus towards physical response. There is no hierarchy among the materials—she is interested in the emotions that an interaction with a certain material or textures elicits. This process creates a practice imbued with life and energy; one that directly confronts the viewer and implores them to consider their own relationship with physicality and materiality.

“We are honored to begin working with Karla Black, an artist whom I have always admired and whose practice challenges and expands our understanding of sculpture,” says Felix Rödder, gallery owner. “Her work transforms space into both ephemeral and commanding environments, and we look forward to seeing how her material explorations evolve in our space.”

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.