

Lamps With Main Character Energy

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Ceramic and Glass Lamps With Playful Personalities

By Gisela Williams



From left: Carmen D'Apollonio's "It's Good to Be Here," which features a classic cloth shade, and "It's All a Big Mystery" (both 2025), for which the artist experimented with glass. Courtesy of Friedman Benda and Carmen D'Apollonio. Photo: Evan Bedford

The Swiss artist Carmen D'Apollonio primarily makes sculptural lamps whose globular clay bases often cling to the corner of a table, their shades askew. She considers each one a character. This week, she's debuting a new collection at Friedman Benda's New York gallery, many of which feature glass lampshades. D'Apollonio says she likes that the material "drips and is unpredictable." One of the new pieces looks like a glass mushroom; another resembles a person wearing a hat bent toward the ground, or maybe a drooping, bell-shaped flower on a thick black arched stem. Another new work incorporates fabric (D'Apollonio, who's based in Los Angeles, was previously a fashion

designer) stuffed to create a massive pillow in the shape of two legs, which forms the base of a wall-mounted light. "It's my new baby," says D'Apollonio. "Carmen D'Apollonio: Salut, Ça Va, C'est Moi" will be on view at Friedman Benda New York from Sept. 11 through Oct. 16, friedmanbenda.com.