

PRESS RELEASE

HOTEL BEL-AIR UNVEILS CHRIS WOLSTON
EXHIBITION AS THE LATEST ADDITION TO ITS
RENOWNED SCULPTURE GARDEN



Chris Wolston, *Gingersita Chair*, photo by David Sierra, courtesy the artist and The Future Perfect

Los Angeles, October 2, 2023 – **Hotel Bel-Air**, part of the esteemed Dorchester Collection, in partnership with illustrious bi-coastal design gallery **The Future Perfect**, is delighted to announce the inclusion of internationally acclaimed Medellín, Colombia–based artist **Chris Wolston** (b. 1987, USA) in its prestigious sculpture garden. The

site-specific outdoor exhibition underscores the hotel's enduring commitment to celebrating art and culture by placing artworks inspired by global locales in dialogue with its iconic surroundings.

Chris Wolston's thoughtfully conceptualized and intricately fabricated works, which range from furniture and lighting to installation and sculpture, rigorously blend traditional techniques and materials with a wry, contemporary surrealism, arriving at an entirely original postmodern aesthetic imbued with a joyful material fluency.



Chris Wolston, *Earthly Delight Vessel 01*, photo by David Sierra, courtesy the artist and The Future Perfect

Chris Wolston at Hotel Bel-Air is Wolston's fifth solo exhibition and follows the artist's exhibitions at The Future Perfect: *Flower Power* (2023) and *Forbidden Fruit* (2019) in New York and *Temperature's Rising* (2021) in Los Angeles. The exhibition includes a series of terracotta planter chairs never before exhibited in Los Angeles, populated with flora found within the Hotel Bel-Air's garden. Drawing inspiration from Wolston's adopted home of Medellín, Colombia, this body of work continues the artist's material explorations of terracotta. Combining form and function, the exhibited objects investigate techniques endemic to the country as well as celebrate the cultural significance of the flower globally and Colombia's status as the floral capital of the Americas. A number

of featured artworks include casts of tropical flora and fauna against the cultivated landscape of the Hotel Bel-Air, reinforcing the practice of planting and cutting flowers to express joy, love, remembrance, and romance across cultures. This exhibition also draws from masonry techniques utilized by bricklayers in buildings throughout Colombia as gestural designs, integrated within their unique environment at the iconic Hotel Bel-Air.

The show features a new collection of terracotta chairs and two of Wolston's renowned *Nalgona* series, among other never-before-seen artworks. The artist's presentation at Hotel Bel-Air continues his exploration of craft traditions, materiality, and symbolism.



Chris Wolston, *Germancho Chair*, photo by David Sierra, courtesy the artist and The Future Perfect

Wolston's interest in non-Western craft traditions originated in 2013, when he was awarded a Fulbright grant to study pre-Columbian ceramics in Colombia, and invigorated by his exposure, Wolston opened a second studio in Medellín to continue his collaboration with local artisans and materials. His work can be found in the

permanent collections of the Denver Art Museum, the National Gallery of Victoria, Australia, the Museum of American Glass, Museo de Antioquia in Medellín, Colombia, and the National Museum of Qatar.

Wolston has worked with international luxury brands including Fendi, Dior, and 3.1 Phillip Lim and has been profiled by the international media, including *The New York Times: T Magazine*, *Architectural Digest*, *Le Monde Magazine*, *Elle Decor Italia*, and *Surface*, among others.

Hotel Bel-Air's Sculpture Garden houses an expanding collection with Wolston's works joining sculptural works by Los Angeles-based artist and designer Rogan Gregory. The artistic collaboration transforms the hotel's surroundings into an enchanting oasis, where every step is an exploration of imagination and creativity.

The exhibition will open on October 25, 2023 and will remain on view through February 15, 2024. The public is invited to join hotel guests and art enthusiasts alike to experience the captivating work as part of a self-guided walking tour through the hotel's gardens.

Chris Wolston at Hotel Bel-Air is curated by James Hedges, the hotel's Curator of the Arts and is presented with *The Future Perfect*. It is free and open to the public seven days a week. All sculptures are available for purchase through [Hedges Projects](#).

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NOTES TO THE EDITORS

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