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An Artful Tower of Flowers

'Pyramids of Makkum' Exhibition in London


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Several years ago, Royal Tichelaar Makkum, a Dutch ceramics company founded in the 16th century, restored two identical 17th-century flower pyramids for the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. At the time, the company also made a replica of one of the pyramids, which each consisted of 11 stacked vases. That replica, left, was a jumping-off point for four designers — Hella Jongerius, Studio Makkink & Bey, Studio Job and Alexander van Slobbe — to reinterpret the 17th-century pyramid. The first exhibition devoted solely to those designs, “Pyramids of Makkum,” opens May 10 at Gallery Libby Sellers in London.


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Royal Tichelaar Makkum./Courtesy Gallery Libby Sellers

“In a shop, if you buy flowers, they’re always in buckets, and these buckets are the new vases,” said Jurgen Bey of the pyramid he created with Studio Makkink, below left, which is essentially four buckets balanced on top of one another. “They all fit into each other, but you have to do it very carefully.”

Mr. Bey’s pyramid, which is about four feet tall, is \$97,871.

The show runs through June 16.
Information: 44-20-3384-8785 or libbysellers.com.

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