

OPERA GALLERY



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GENEVA

Pieter Obels

14 NOVEMBER – 5 DECEMBER, 2025

Opera Gallery Geneva is delighted to present a solo exhibition by Dutch sculptor Pieter Obels, on view from 14 November to 5 December 2025. Bringing together twelve unique works, including two monumental sculptures, this exhibition invites visitors into a world where steel appears to bend, breathe, and move with organic grace.

Working with Corten steel, a material more often associated with architecture and industry, Obels transforms hardness into fluidity. His sculptures seem to defy their medium, balancing strength and delicacy, weight and lightness. Each work is meticulously shaped by hand in the solitude of his Tilburg studio, without assistants or molds. What emerges are forms that feel less constructed than grown: spirals, loops, and curves that evoke wind, water, and the gentle rhythms of nature.

Born in Kruisland, the Netherlands, in 1968, and trained at the Academy for Fine Arts in Tilburg, where he still lives and works, Obels has made Corten steel his chosen language. Through patience, intuition, and physical engagement with the material, he reveals its lyrical and almost meditative potential. The oxidised surfaces of his sculptures deepen over time, developing warm, earthy tones that allow them to merge seamlessly with their surroundings—outdoors they echo the hues of soil and bark, while indoors they converse with light, space, and shadow.

In contrast to the monumental severity often associated with steel sculpture, Obels' work proposes another rhythm, one that values stillness and attentiveness. His pieces do not impose; they invite. They ask to be circled, approached, and experienced slowly, revealing shifting balances and subtle dialogues between form and perception.

As Obels himself notes, the paradox at the heart of his practice lies in transforming one of the hardest materials into something that feels alive. His sculptures demonstrate that beauty can reside in contradiction, and that poetry may indeed be found in the very heart of steel.

With this exhibition, Opera Gallery Geneva continues its mission to highlight exceptional contemporary voices who expand the boundaries of material and form. Pieter Obels' works, at once powerful and serene, stand as testaments to the enduring dialogue between nature, craftsmanship, and the human imagination.

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About Pieter Obels

Pieter Obels (b. 1968, Kruisland, The Netherlands) studied at the Academy for Fine Arts in Tilburg, where he continues to live and work. His sculptures, created entirely by hand, explore the tension between the industrial and the organic. Through elegant curves and balanced forms, he transforms Corten steel into something supple and lyrical. His works have been exhibited across Europe and are part of numerous private and public collections.

About Opera Gallery

Founded in Singapore in 1994, Opera Gallery has spent the past 30 years building a global presence, with 14 locations across major cities including London, Paris, New York, Geneva, Singapore, and Madrid. Under the leadership of Gilles Dyan, the gallery has become a key player in the international art market, with a strong focus on Modern, Postwar, and Contemporary art.

Opera Gallery also champions a new generation of artists, representing rising talents such as Andy Denzler, Pieter Obels, and Gustavo Nazareno, alongside more established contemporary figures like Ron Arad, Manolo Valdés, and Anselm Reyle.

Situated in the heart of the city, the Geneva location spans over 200 square meters of exhibition space and is directed by Jordan Lahmi.

For over three decades, the gallery's mission has been to highlight the richness and diversity of modern and contemporary art through a dynamic annual exhibition program, while actively engaging with cultural institutions and supporting both private collections and major public initiatives.

Press Contact

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