

Product

In His Quest for Complete Design, Artist David Wiseman Debuts a Dreamlike Wallpaper Collection

After a solo show at Kasmin gallery this spring spurred an artistic epiphany, David Wiseman returned to drawing

By Jessica Ritz

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David Wiseman's "Lost Valley" Wallpaper will be sold as an artist edition of 24. Four artist proofs will also be available. Photo: Courtesy of Wiseman Studio

"Over the course of having to create commissions, I had to learn how to draw," artist and Pasadena native [David Wiseman](#) tells AD PRO while standing among castings, detritus, and heavy equipment in the foundry area of his northeast Los Angeles workshop.

For the artist—whose delicate porcelain, bronze, and glass works are collected worldwide—drawing was a skill born out of necessity. "I developed these rendering skills and they were only put toward commissions," he explains. "But when I took the time to draw for fun again, I found that I could close my eyes and I could draw what I *wanted* to draw, which was a very new thing for me."

Wiseman's "Lost Valley" wallpaper is the dreamlike result of this technical and creative epiphany. The panels were first featured in "[Plants, Minerals, and Animals](#)," Wiseman's [recent Kasmin](#) installation in New York this past spring. That wallpaper, says Wiseman, "was kind of a map for everything in the show."

The various imagery nestled within the "Lost Valley" pattern is an exercise in shifting perspective, with monkeys draped through a mountainous landscape with ponds, waterfalls, palm trees, and datura flowers, but Wiseman also cleverly introduced elements of the man-made—and himself. "I wanted to tell the story of how my bronze textures have their roots in how I see nature," he explains. Hence geometric facets integrated into the tree bark, for instance, or depictions of Wiseman's own pendant lamps, dangling from sinuous tree trunks like vines. The artist describes the colors, which feature shades of rose, lavender, and orange, as "a little weird, a little off—except for the water."

Owners of "Lost Valley" (limited to a run of just 24) also get another Wiseman original: a numbered bronze and resin dragonfly sculpture to mount onto the surface that can function as "a keepsake," says Wiseman. The panels, which debut in the original colorway, as well as in black and white, are printed by [Chambord Place](#).

The wallpaper is the first offering Wiseman and his brother and business partner, Ari, have made available for purchase directly through [Wiseman Studio](#). And there is more to come: Wiseman Studio is preparing for its biggest move yet, onto a one-acre property in nearby Frogtown, tucked along the banks of the Los Angeles River. The larger studio will enable Wiseman to continue to create and showcase his immersive environments. "I've been creating work that is about speaking to a much larger world," he explains, "which is top to bottom, complete *gesamt*, interior and exterior."

Much like his output, Wiseman's goals are multidirectional yet tied to a distinct worldview and discipline. "It's a culture of being contemplative with nature, seeing it with endless inspiration and seeing nature with childlike eyes, and being close to the making process," he reflects. "I see this as a way to cultivate a life practice."