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Mister Finch to Make His New York Gallery Debut

With his handmade toadstools, giant bugs and dead birds, the eccentric English artist brings the world of nightmares to life



Over 50 new works by Mister Finch will be featured at the Steven Kasher Gallery in New York. PHOTO: JOSS MCKINLEY FOR WSJ. MAGAZINE

By

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Bulbous, splotchy toadstools, dog-size spiders, limp birds with claws curled in death—this is the macabre stuff of nightmares, as well as the imagination of Mister Finch, an eccentric textile artist based in Leeds, England, whose debut gallery exhibition, *Mister Finch's Handmade Museum*, runs to July 31 at the Steven Kasher Gallery in New York. The show features over 50 new works by the 40-year-old artist, who brings insects, fungi and other forest inhabitants to spooky life using wire frames and carefully stitched fine cotton fabric. His distinctly British aesthetic—with its *Alice in Wonderland*-like playfulness with scale—gained him a cult following on [Etsy](#), which led to a show at Anthropologie in

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London last year. He links these hand-stitched organisms, which can be alternately harmless or lethal, to fairy tales and their warnings. "I've always been fascinated by that idea of, Be careful what you touch, who you speak to," he says. "Be careful where you're going in the woods."