

PAN

AMSTERDAM

THE MILLEN HOUSE



Phoenix Cabinet

Phoenix Cabinet, 2026

Reclaimed wood, bleached paper and acrylic

140 × 180 × 50 cm

Unique

Provenance: Acquired directly from the artist.

With the *Phoenix Cabinet*, Joe Sterck transforms discarded studio materials into an object that is at once functional furniture and autonomous sculpture. Constructed from reclaimed wood, the cabinet is composed as a carefully balanced arrangement of intersecting planes and geometric volumes, recalling the visual language of De Stijl and post-war geometric abstraction. Its asymmetrical composition evokes the architectural clarity found in the work of artists such as Joost Baljeu and Guy Vandenbranden, where proportion, rhythm and balance become the primary means of expression.

Rather than finishing the cabinet with an opaque painted surface, Sterck developed a process that deliberately introduces chance into the work. Layers of black paper are applied before being carefully bleached, creating a richly textured skin of soft whites, greys and warm ochre tones. The resulting surface appears almost weathered or mineral, allowing accidental marks and subtle tonal variations to emerge naturally.

This dialogue between precision and unpredictability lies at the heart of the cabinet. The strict geometry of its construction is continually softened by the organic quality of the surface, creating a tension between control and spontaneity, architecture and nature. What initially reads as a rigorous geometric composition gradually reveals itself as something tactile, layered and deeply human.

The title *Phoenix* reflects this process of transformation. Leftover materials from the artist's own studio are not simply reused, but fundamentally reimagined into a unique object whose previous life remains quietly embedded within its surface. In doing so, Sterck demonstrates how contemporary collectible design can unite sustainability, craftsmanship and sculptural thinking without compromising either function or formal clarity.