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Craftica by Formafantasma at Gallery Libby Sellers

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Simone Farresin and Andrea Trimarchi of Formafantasma have created a visual and tactile investigation into the diversity and origins of leather through a series of handmade stools, lights, vessels and tools with a pre-industrial aesthetic. Entitled *Craftica*, the series was initially conceived in collaboration with Fendi for Design Miami /Basel 2012 but will be shown at Gallery Libby Sellers in London from 1-28 February 2013

The Italian born duo, who graduated from the Design Academy Eindhoven in 2010, describe the series as being "driven by the symbolic connotations of leather, a material that, more than any other represents the complex relationship between humans and nature. Leather has the ability to evoke almost ancestral memories of when nature was hunted to produce food, tools and protection for the body."

The series utilises discarded leather left over from the manufacturing process at Fendi alongside a range of other leathers selected by the designers, including fish skins discarded by the food industry, vegetal processed leather using natural substances from tree bark, cork leather extracted from cork trees leaving them unharmed and a series of animal bladders investigated for their abilities to hold liquids. The leathers have been paired with marble, oxidized metal, glass, wood and other unprocessed natural materials such as bones, shells and a sponge cultivated in a sea-farm as a substitute for industrial foam.







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Craftica is at Gallery Libby Sellers from 1-28 February 2013. All work is for sale exclusively through the gallery.

Images: 1. Perch hot water bottle and perch stool - one of a series of four stools characterised by organic forms and fin-like legs upholstered in fish leather. | 2. Jar. | 3. Collection of glass bell lights hung by leather straps.

Photography by Luisa Zanzani.