



GALLERY LIBBY SELLERS

HOT TOOLS

In association with ECAL

6 September – 29 September 2012

For the London Design Festival 2012, Gallery Libby Sellers is pleased to present Hot Tools – an exhibition of exquisite and intrepid glass works by the Product Design Master students of ECAL, the University of Art and Design Lausanne.

The exhibition is the culmination of a student workshop led by designer Ronan Bouroullec and glassblower Matteo Gonet, and will feature works by graduate designers Rita Botelho, Diane du Chaxel, Sasha Duquesne, Philipp Grundhöfer, Felix Klingmüller, Charles Mathis, Giulio Parini and Jung-Cheng Su.

The designers' brief was to challenge conventions of glass making, but also the types of objects that such extraordinary processes could procure. Alexis Georgacopoulos, director of ECAL has said of the project, "The aim was not to design another vase or bowl, it was to experiment, create new processes and tools, testing the limits of both the material and our ideas." Ronan Bouroullec explains further, "After a visit to the workshop of glassblower Matteo Gonet in Basel, students had to design and produce tools and utensils, and invent scenarios that would create an interesting effect in Matteo's artisanal glass-making process. We had five days to create a successful test palette." For Matteo Gonet, the workshop sessions were intense, but the challenge was won. "Glass is used in a wide variety of areas, in a multitude of guises, thereby allowing plenty of scope for exploration. Since the material is basically technical in nature, tools have been used from the beginning of time to process glass. The 'tools' made by the students themselves took the form of wooden moulds, glass powder and copper, leather, etc. The workshop sessions were lively!"

The gallery's stable of designers already includes ECAL graduates Fabien Cappello, Tomas Kral, Nicolas Le Moigne, and Adrien Rovero. Hot Tools will offer Gallery Libby Sellers a chance to support and promote the next generation of designers as well as provide clients and collectors with the exclusive chance to purchase the glass works on offer.

The September exhibition marks not only the first anniversary of the permanent gallery space in Berners Street, but also the fifth anniversary of Gallery Libby Sellers. After leaving the Design Museum in 2007, she started trading as a pop-up venture taking on temporary venues across the globe to promote and support emerging design. Since those humble origins, the business has blossomed to become one of London's leading contemporary design galleries and an established fixture on the international design scene.



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