

# CRAFTS

THE MAGAZINE FOR CONTEMPORARY CRAFT

## HISTORY MAKERS

*The story of British  
furniture*

## SHORE START

*Why Hendzel + Hunt  
built a boat*

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Lindsay Taylor*



## THE WHITE STUFF

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the top table*



The 'Crafts' guide to the best bits of this year's London Design Festival, 14-22 September

## Design's creative compass



### West

Once again, the V&A is the hub for the London Design Festival. In the main entrance will hang Omer Arbel's 30 metre chandelier comprising hundreds of glass components, while the Medieval Galleries will be home to a 'world of cork' designed by FAT Architecture. And on the museum's Architecture Landing, prototypes of the three shortlisted chair designs for Oxford's Bodleian Library competition will be on show from Barber Osgerby with Isokon, Matthew Hilton with SCP and Amanda Levete Architects with Herman Miller.

Beyond the installations and exhibitions there is the opportunity of meeting some makers, including designer-in-residence Julia Lohmann and her Department of Seaweed (various days throughout the festival) and a workshop with Meekyoung Shin, who creates extraordinary decorated vessels out of soap (16 September).

Outside of the V&A but within the Brompton Design District, you'll find Mint's *Cabinets of Curiosities* with work by



over 50 new and upcoming talents, all spotted by the gallery's director Lina Kanafani. Around the corner from Mint, Smallbone of Devizes will be celebrating craft with a series of workshops and demos, including one by silversmith Ndidi Ekubia. If you're in the mood for something more abstract check out Workshop For Potential Design's *The Blanks in Between*, an exhibition in which Peter Marigold and Keith Harrison – among others – respond to the idea of the industrial blank.

Over at Vessel Gallery, Dutch-Bulgarian duo Odd Matter present their new collection *OverNight*, a series of lights made using traditional copper plating techniques with stained glass. And of course, a trip out west for the festival would be incomplete without 100% Design at Earls Court (18-21 September). Look past the bathroom fixtures and fittings companies and you'll discover, among others, furniture by bark and David Colwell, David Mellor's cutlery and Lorna Syson's textiles.



Left, l-r: *Overnight Collection*, Odd Matter (showing at Vessel Gallery); *Inside Out II*, Alicia Ongay-Perez, ceramic (showing in *Cabinets of Curiosities* at Mint); *Glade Lamp*, James Smith Designs (showing at 100% Design)



### Central

If you find yourself in central London, *designjunction* is at the Sorting Office from 18-22 September. Now in its third year, the exhibition has become a firm fixture on the festival's calendar. You can expect the return of its 'flash factories', with demonstrations from Brooks, Britain's oldest saddle-makers, as well as a dedicated exhibition of contemporary lighting. The Crafts Council will be screening a preview of its new touring show *Real to Reel*, which focuses on film and crafts (and launches fully next year).

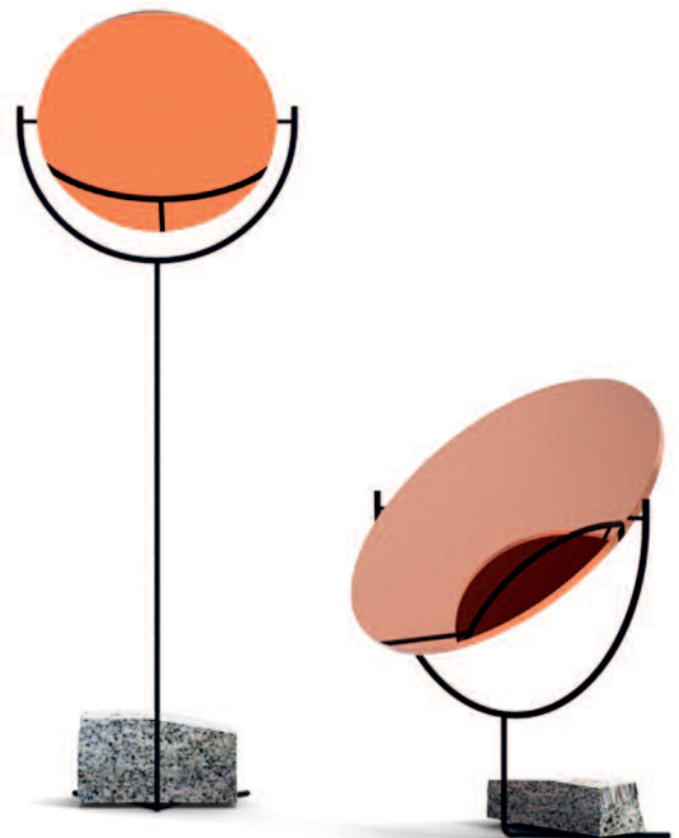
Elsewhere, Aram Gallery treats us to a solo show of Bethan Laura Wood's most recent work, wooden furniture and glass lights inspired by (among other things) scaffolding in East London and Mexican



chilli sweets. Don't forget to check out Amy Hunting and Oscar Narud's *Copper Mirror Series* at Gallery Libby Sellers. Meanwhile, iconic department store Fortnum & Mason has invited duo SORT (Society of Revisionist Typographers) to run letterpress workshops through the duration of the festival, and Heal's sees the launch of a new design company, Eiger, which challenged 15 designers and architects to create jewellery (contributors include Kenneth Grange, Michael Marriott and Tomoko Azumi).

Finally, Ben Pentreath is using the festival to launch *Pentreath & Hall - Goods and Furnishings*, his collaboration with Bridie Hall, beginning with a series of decorative papers derived from Batty Langley's *Treasury of Designs*.

This page, clockwise from below: *Copper Mirror Series*, Amy Hunting and Oscar Narud (showing at Gallery Libby Sellers); *Crisscross Chandelier*, Bethan Laura Wood (showing at Aram Gallery); *Sphere Ring*, Terence Woodgate (showing with Eiger at Heal's); *designjunction*







Above: *Endless Stair*, dRMM Architects, CAD image  
 Right: *Big Fox and Giant Fox Play Shop*, Donna Wilson, gloves, scarves, bags and creatures (showing at ICN Gallery)  
 Below: *The Other Way*, Carl Clerkin (showing at Gallery S O)



Above right: *Pendant Light*, Donna Bates (showing in *Vernacular*, Crafts Council of Ireland at TENT London)  
 Right: *Sydney Harbour Bridge ring*, Vicki Ambery-Smith (showing in *model:making* at Contemporary Applied Arts)  
 Below: *Pedestal*, Gareth Batowski (showing at TENT London)



**East**  
 Heading east, the Old Truman Brewery on Brick Lane will be home to TENT London from 19-22 September, offering up its annual eclectic mix of design and craft; look out for Fay McCaul's textiles and Sebastian Cox's coppiced furniture. Also showing – following its impressive debut at last year's festival – the Crafts Council of Ireland presents *Vernacular*,

a collection of Irish work in which 'indigenous materials and processes combine in intelligent collaboration with design to express an intrinsic and authentic element of the story of Irish design'. Crikey! Expect Derek Wilson's ceramics and glass by Donna Bates.

Staying on Brick Lane, Gallery S O is putting on a solo show of Carl Clerkin's recent creations. Known as a furniture and product designer, in this series he plays with everyday objects. 'I like the idea of the things we live with having character and interacting beyond the physical. I like the idea that a bucket can express an urge, or a broom can be more comfortable doing it... the other way,' he explains enigmatically. Meanwhile, fans of Donna Wilson's knitted universe can join in the 10th anniversary celebrations (including an auction and workshops) during a show of Wilson's world at ICN Gallery. And in Shoreditch's Boxpark, Creo Collective will be curating work from some of its favourite young makers in its exhibition *Material Times*.



**South**  
 Undoubtedly one highlight of this year's festival is *Endless Stair*, an Escher-like arrangement of 15 wooden stairs outside Tate Modern, looking across the river to St Pauls. The piece is designed by Alex de Rijke of dRMM Architects, who calls wood the 'new concrete', a construction material for the 21st century.

Contemporary Applied Arts works with the architect of its new South London gallery space, Allies & Morrison, to create *model:making*. This looks at makers' and architects' uses of models within their practice and the combining of traditional and cutting-edge technology.

And in the undercroft at the Southbank, a suitably urban and unexpected surrounding, you'll find Designersblock from 19-22 September, presenting over 200 designers, makers and artists, and curating a series of intriguing-sounding events with the Southbank Centre in and around the Royal Festival Hall. For more details of the events mentioned visit [www.londondesignfestival.com](http://www.londondesignfestival.com)