



FURNITURE | NEED TO NOW

Anton Alvarez: Wrapper's Delight

Gallery Libby Sellers
showcases the work of a
design artist to watch



As one of London's leading contemporary design galleries, Gallery Libby Sellers is a place to sit up and take notice of – especially when it chooses to showcase a new creative talent. From Thursday March 6 until Thursday April 17, it is turning over the whole of its central London venue to the recently graduated Swedish-Chilean design artist [Anton Alvarez](#). Although it was only in 2012 that he left the Royal College of Art with a master's degree in Design Products, he has already exhibited his work internationally at the Stockholm Furniture & Light Fair, Mudac Museum in Lausanne and London's V&A. One to watch seems an understatement for such a confident move.

Unusually for a designer but more in keeping with the workings of an artist, Alvarez's work focuses on the creation of tools and production, rather than solely on the finished furniture. The 20 pieces (£900-£4,500) that make up *Wrapper's Delight* were all created using a unique "thread wrapping machine" that Alvarez designed and manufactured himself. This machine is essentially a giant spinning wheel, which he uses to bind pieces of wood, metal and plastic together with thousands of metres of glue-coated thread to form three-dimensional objects without nails or joinery, and which occupy that increasingly interesting space between furniture and sculpture: design art.

The making process is certainly fascinating, but what makes his work stand out is the fact that the finished pieces (from stools and coat stands to lights and benches) are also scene-stealing items of practical furniture. Alvarez is a natural colourist and pattern maker, and that glue-coated thread lends each piece an irresistibly tactile dimension.

Wrapper's Delight, Thursday March 6 to Thursday April 17 2014 at Gallery Libby Sellers, 41-42 Berners Street, London W1 (020-3384 8785; www.libbysellers.com).

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