

# LONDON CRAFT WEEK

**PRESS RELEASE**

March 2018

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## London Craft Week

*A journey into making*

9–13 May 2018

**For five days in May**, hundreds of locations around London give themselves over to the discovery and celebration of craftsmanship in every sector of making – from Britain and around the world.

From the smallest off-the-beaten-track atelier to the storied livery halls of ancient makers' guilds, the shop floors of luxury retailers to the Houses of Parliament, **London Craft Week** takes people on a journey of discovery into the capital's most creative spaces.

Launched in 2015 and now in its fourth edition, London Craft Week is the only festival of its kind in the world. Its packed calendar of events includes behind-the-scenes demonstrations, hands-on craft workshops and a **programme of talks, interviews and discussions** featuring some of the most fascinating individuals working in global craft today.

Over the course of the week, a visitor might learn the intricacies of **Swiss horology, British millinery and Danish ceramics**; blend their own fragrances, print their own books and craft their own tableware; and hear the stories of crafted works and iconic luxury products direct from the mouths of their makers – but still only scratch the surface of what London Craft Week has to offer.

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Behind the scenes at Rebus, making their signature signet rings.

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More than 200 events over the week span a vast spectrum of craft disciplines, from jewellery and leathercraft to printmaking and carpentry, and involve both established makers of global standing – including the likes of **Tom Dixon**, **Bill Amberg** and **Georg Jensen** – and emerging talents on the cusp of their careers, such as the ceramic artist and Woman’s Hour Craft prize winner **Phoebe Cummings**, and the 2018 Arts Foundation Award winner and New Craftsmen glassblower **Jochen Holz**.

By going beyond the static beauty of an object to the dynamic story behind its making, London Craft Week aims to highlight and celebrate every dimension of craftsmanship: material and technique, talent and imagination.

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*‘London Craft Week is a response to a renaissance in the appreciation of creativity and craft; to the role of hand, head, unique skills and true talent. It is another example of what, at its best, the world’s creative capital does so well – mixing glamour with cutting edge; heritage and contemporary and the commercial with the cultural.’*

**– Guy Salter, OBE MVO, Chairman of London Craft Week**

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Splatware Dinner Service by Assemble part of their Turner Prize-winning Granby Street enterprise.

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London Craft Week is delighted to announce that **dunhill** and **Purdy** are jointly supporting this year's event as Headline Sponsors.

Throughout London Craft Week, **dunhill** will be partnering with Hole & Corner to curate a series of workshops, demonstrations and discussions on the subject of craftsmanship and the home, as well as a programme of films to be screened, which will take place at the Bourdon House flagship store.

**Purdy** is renowned for making the finest-quality shotguns, rifles and shooting equipment and this iconic British company brings the same attention to detail and craftsmanship to their clothing and accessories. For London Craft Week they will be hosting a series of demonstrations in their beautiful Audley House store.

The 2018 programme is more diverse than ever before, with 48% of the featured brands and makers participating for the first time, and over 25% coming from outside the UK.

The full programme of events will be published in early March. Highlights include:

- London Craft Week's **broadest-ever spread of global craftsmanship**, including debut exhibitions from leading makers in **Japan, China and Korea**, as well as a unique showcase of some of Switzerland's most revered small watchmaking houses, including Laurent Ferrier, Romain Gauthier, Ludovic Ballouard, De Bethune, Ferdinand Berthoud, Graham, H. Moser & Cie, and Moritz Grossmann – hosted by **William and Sons**.
  - A variety of **outdoor events and experiences** to coincide with the coming of summer and the run-up to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. In **Chelsea Physic Garden**, 15 of the UK's leading letter carvers explore the theme of drinks and botanicals with an exhibition of bespoke artworks. Meanwhile at **Petersham Nurseries**, visitors can combine tea and biscuits with a textile-making workshop hosted by Florentine atelier **La Serra MK Textile**.
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Eleanor Lakelin at Cockpit Arts. Photo by Alun Callender.

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- A series of **meet-the-maker talks and interviews**, where contemporary artists and craftspeople reveal the stories behind their works. Designer **Morag Myerscough** tells **Ditchling Museum** how the silkscreen artist Corita Kent shaped her creative philosophy. The **Clothworkers Livery Company** welcomes the master weavers of **Dovecot Studios** to discuss the making of the Chris Ofili-designed tapestry *The Caged Bird's Song*, which now hangs in the livery hall. Meanwhile at the **Barbican**, tapestry artist **Christabel Balfour** spends the week live-weaving her response to Yto Barada's multimedia installation in *The Curve*. In Bermondsey, Turner Prize-winning architecture and design collective **Assemble** officially open their Sugarhouse Studios, while nearby, **White Cube Bermondsey** brings in the tapestry makers **Ateliers Pinton** to discuss the challenges of transforming the work of Brazilian artist **Beatriz Milhazes** into three-dimensional textile art.
  - Exclusive exhibitions and **one-off events at leading retailers**, including the return of the **#LibertyOpenCall**, when the celebrated department store invites designers and makers to submit their product for a chance to be stocked in the home department – the chosen product will be revealed and made available for sale during London Craft Week. Over at **Carl Hansen & Son's** Clerkenwell showroom, **Huit Denim** – the jeans makers on a mission to restore the Cardigan denim industry – offer 10 exclusive items for sale only available during London Craft Week. In Belgravia, **Grosvenor Britain & Ireland** present the Pimlico Road Series, in which **Rose Uniacke, LINLEY, Cox London, Daylesford Organic, Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler** and others present live demonstrations in-store exploring the theme of texture.
  - Opportunities to gain **insider access to the world's most prestigious luxury brands and fashion houses**, with special events from the likes of **Mulberry** and **Vivienne Westwood**; a drinks reception to celebrate **John Smedley's** newly commissioned artworks by artistic couple Robert Montgomery and Greta Bellamacin; and an in-store perfume-making workshop at **Floris**. Across three floors of **Fortnum & Mason's** flagship store in Piccadilly, **The Goldsmiths' Company** present an exhibition of exceptional contemporary jewellery art and silver. Meanwhile, visitors to **Thomas Goode** are invited to paint their own piece of **Meissen** porcelain.
  - **Behind-the-scenes access** to some of **London's most iconic, off-the-beaten-track and otherwise unexplored locations**. These include The **Department Store Brixton**, one of the most beautifully restored buildings in southeast London, where the architects behind the project, **Squire and Partners**, will lead an insider tour of the building, culminating with drinks in the panoramic rooftop bar. **Sonia Friedman Productions** is inviting West End visitors backstage to discover the secrets of the *Dreamgirls* costume department; while Mayfair's most exclusive members' club, **5 Hertford Street**, hosts a bespoke board-game evening featuring exclusive works by luxury game makers **Alexandra Llewellyn, Purling London, Pickett London, Simpson London** and **Geoffrey Parker**.
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Taking place at venues throughout the city, some London Craft Week events and experiences are ticketed, most are free to attend and many are held on a drop-in basis. The full programme will be published in the next few weeks.

Authenticity is at the heart of London Craft Week and the programme aims to attract a broad audience united in their appreciation of imagination, individuality, passion and skill. London Craft Week reflects a global trend, with increasingly discerning visitors searching out objects of beauty and substance against a flowering of craftsmanship worldwide. It bridges iconic heritage and contemporary brands as well as independent makers and allows them to tell their stories. Each year, with the city as its backdrop, week-long event shines a spotlight on artists and makers and celebrates a golden age of creative talent.

*'We aim to give our visitors as much choice as possible, so there is hopefully something for everyone. And we also want people to enjoy themselves. This year's programme is designed as a journey of discovery – a cultural experience in the broadest sense of the word – encompassing hidden workshops and great luxury houses, little-known regional producers and celebrated masters, and embracing food, drink and performance as a way of animating the core programme and showing the making that goes on behind the scenes in theatre, opera, ballet, film, TV and iconic buildings.'*

– **Guy Salter, OBE MVO, Chairman of London Craft Week**

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(Above) London eyewear brand Cubitts' Horn colour options.

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## **SPONSORS**

London Craft Week is a not-for-profit organisation dependent on the support of sponsors and partners. London Craft Week is particularly grateful to its Headline Sponsors: **dunhill** and **James Purdey & Sons**.

### **dunhill**

Founded in London in 1893, Alfred Dunhill has been design-driven with style and purpose for 125 years. Today, dunhill London represents the best of British leather goods and menswear, offering unique and engineered luxuries for men.

Throughout London Craft Week, dunhill will be partnering with Hole & Corner to curate a series of workshops, demonstrations and discussions on the subject of craftsmanship and the home, as well as a programme of films to be screened, which will take place at the Bourdon House flagship store.

### **James Purdey & Sons**

Since 1814, James Purdey & Sons have been perfecting the art of the 'Best' London gun, making the finest-quality shotguns, rifles and shooting equipment.

When a customer orders a hand-crafted Purdey gun, they are joining a tradition of gunmaking excellence that spans over two centuries. The attention to detail and craftsmanship of this iconic British company also reflects in their range of clothing and accessories that complements the lifestyle of any passionate shooter.

During London Craft Week, visitors will be invited to Audley House – Purdey's prestigious Mayfair store and headquarters since 1883 – to witness live demonstrations from regional makers.

London Craft Week would also like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support:

**Grosvenor Britain and Ireland**, a long-standing supporter of London Craft Week, has created the Pimlico Road Series bringing together twelve retailers to explore notions around texture.

**The LOEWE Foundation** presents its second annual Craft Prize on 3 May at the Design Museum, which hosts an exhibition of the shortlisted finalists and a parallel events programme including talks and tours as part of London Craft Week.

The **Conran Shop** welcome the Global Market Exhibition to its three London stores with live demonstrations and creators from across the globe.

The **GREAT Britain Campaign**, supporting London Craft Week for the second time, celebrates the best of the UK, encouraging people to visit, do business, invest and study.

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## **Notes for Editors**

**Dates:** 9–13 May 2018

**Guy Salter OBE MVO**

**Chairman of London Craft Week**

Guy is a long-standing specialist retailer, investor and social entrepreneur. His pro bono work includes founding London Craft Week, the GREAT Britain campaign and 18 years with Walpole, which included establishing the Crafted programme in 2007. London Craft Week brings together three of his passions: exceptional craftsmanship in all its diversity, from museum-quality contemporary ceramics (of which he is a keen collector) to dry stone walling; innovating in the consumer retail space; and promoting London's culture and creativity.

*[londoncraftweek.com](http://londoncraftweek.com)*

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Delpozo SS18 at New York Fashion Week.

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*For more information about the aims, makers and events of London Craft Week, please contact Jodi Moss at [jodi@zetteler.co.uk](mailto:jodi@zetteler.co.uk) or on 07910 705147.*

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