

# LONDON CRAFT WEEK

PRESS RELEASE  
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## 5 YEARS OF GLOBAL CRAFT London Craft Week 8–12 May

Full 2019 programme available at [londoncraftweek.com](http://londoncraftweek.com)

This May marks a milestone for London Craft Week. The **fifth anniversary of the pioneering festival** will see hundreds of venues across the capital share in a five-day celebration of global creativity – its biggest, boldest and most ambitious event to date.

More than **240 makers, designers, brands, artists and galleries from 15 countries** will participate over the course of the week, inviting the London public to a packed programme of exhibitions, hands-on workshops, talks, creative experiences and one-off events.

London Craft Week has grown enormously since its 2015 beginnings, evolving from an ambitious experimental enterprise to a key event on the UK creative calendar. Last year, more than **99,000 people took part in 230 events**, and both numbers are set to rise in 2019.

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*‘Our hunch when we started was based on two things. Firstly, that many of us were hungry for something more than the restricted diet of the unremarkable or lookalikes found in similar shopping streets, malls and e-commerce sites. Secondly, that there was an iceberg of exceptional talent and richness of human ingenuity which could more than satisfy that demand.’*

– Guy Salter MVO OBE, Founder, London Craft Week

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Now **live on the London Craft Week website**, the 2019 programme presents a vast range of opportunities to discover extraordinary talent and elite international craftsmanship first-hand – and to gain exclusive access to emerging and established designers and leading brands.

London Craft Week unfolds in venues across the city, from major institutions and landmarks such as **St Paul's**, the **V&A**, and the **Barbican** to dunhill's leather factory in Walthamstow and the sleek modern settings of the Apple Store and The Conran Shop. The programme's expanded footprint sees various areas of the city – both north and south of the river – all become London Craft Week destinations, with multiple events taking place from the interior showrooms of **Pimlico Road** and the hidden studios of **Peckham**, to the retail spaces of **St James's** and the iconic institutions of the **South Bank**.

**Mount Street Curates**, a new part of the programme, brings together leading names in fashion such as Pringle, Erdem, Christian Louboutin, MATCHESFASHION.COM and Linda Farrow, with artists and makers including Frida Wannerberger, Christine Roland and Zuza Mengham and Dominic J Mchenry for bespoke collaborations. 2019 marks the London Craft Week debut of **Coal Drops Yard**, which presents workshops, installations and experiences covering the spectrum of making and materials – from the chocolates of Alain Ducasse to the botanical builds of Tom Dixon and the ceramics of Granby Workshop. Also joining the programme for the first time is **Artisan Chelsea**, a series of events celebrating the neighbourhood's creative community of seamstresses, ice-cream aficionados, jewellers, artists and more.



ERDEM, South Audley Street

Visitors are invited to discussions with industry thought leaders, **behind-the-scenes demonstrations** and hands-on workshops led by principal names in **modern luxury**. By sharing

the secrets of master craftspeople, London Craft Week tells the stories behind some of the world's most beautiful objects – the material, the maker, the process and the inspiration.

The scope of the event has never been broader, with a tremendous spectrum of disciplines represented in the programme – ranging from **darning** and **dressmaking** to **lacquering** and **luthiery**. London Craft Week continues to break new ground and, alongside celebrating ancient craft techniques, the 2019 programme provides insight into the future of the creative industries, spotlighting how technologies such as **3D printing** and **virtual reality** will redefine our relationship to craft.

Headline sponsors **Purdey** and **dunhill** are returning to support this year's event, each presenting a series of workshops and tours exploring the brands' own craft stories. In **East London**, dunhill is opening the doors of its leather workshop to show visitors where and how its beautiful bags, accessories and bespoke pieces are made, offering people the chance to make their own. Meanwhile in **Mayfair**, British gunmaker Purdey presents a series of demonstrations covering shoemaking, calligraphy, gun engraving and stick-whittling.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF LONDON CRAFT WEEK 2019

This year's programme illustrates a number of distinct themes, connections and ideas emerging from the world of craft and its intersection with art and design. Half the events are free to attend, (some may need to be booked ahead); tickets are available at [londoncraftweek.com](http://londoncraftweek.com).

### Luxury Connections

LCW continues to explore the relationship between some of the most storied brands in retail and the most accomplished artists and makers in the world. Refocusing attention on process, and the dexterity and imagination of the maker, London Craft Week facilitates fresh and sometimes unexpected connections and collaborations that redefine luxury for the modern age.

– **LOEWE** hosts California-based mother-and-daughter duo Shizu Designs for a series of traditional Japanese weaving demonstrations. They will be showcasing their signature basket-making and knotting techniques, transforming leather and rocks into art.

– The **Christian Louboutin** boutique will host historic paint and lacquer expert Pedro da Costa Felgueiras, in conversation with Tom Loxley, founder and editor of *rakesprogress* magazine, for an evening exploring colour and Portuguese craftsmanship.

- Known for applying traditional Georgian techniques to contemporary design, diamond jeweller **Jessica McCormack** invites visitors to meet artisans demonstrating how traditional craftsmanship is still relevant today, allowing guests to revisit a bygone era of luxury.
  - Design hotel **Sea Containers** London presents an installation of sustainable furniture and accessories created in collaboration between designer **Bethan Grey** and natural material specialist **Nature Squared**, showcasing pieces made from byproducts such as scallop shells and goose feathers.
  - Some of the biggest names in St James's, including **Budd London**, **Floris**, **Church's** and **Fortnum & Mason** will open their doors, welcoming visitors to join a masterclass in shirt cutting, learn the art of perfume blending and understand what goes into making a pair of shoes by hand.
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Anya Hindmarch, Weave Project

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## The Craft of Fashion

Continuing to explore the increasingly close relationship between fashion and craft, London Craft Week encourages and enables crossovers and collaborations between revered fashion houses and gifted artists and makers.

- As part of Mount Street Curates, visitors to **ERDEM's** flagship store will have the opportunity to discover designer Erdem Moralioglu's personal art collection, including original works by Andy

Warhol, Axel Geis and Jean Cocteau – all of which explore the relationship between craftsmanship and fine art.

- At **Roksanda's** flagship store on Mount Street, Danish ceramics designer **Christine Roland** exhibits her hand-built porcelain and stoneware in juxtaposition with Roksanda's signature colour studies and sculptural drapes and shapes.
- At the **Anya Hindmarch** store on Sloane Street, the brand's in-house craftspeople will demonstrate the intricate weaving technique used to make the handcrafted totes of the Neeson Collection and invite guests to weave their own design.
- Eyewear brand **Linda Farrow's** Mount Street boutique showcases the work of British sculptor **Dominic J Mchenry** in a bespoke window installation.
- Celebrating its 235th anniversary this year, knitwear legend **John Smedley** launches '235', a year-long exhibition at St James's Market Pavilion Space in association with the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QEST). During the week, the Jermyn Street store hosts luthier Tom Sands and musician Will McNicol for an evening exploring sound and vision, including a live acoustic performance.
- The **J&M Davidson** boutique on Mount Street welcomes artist **Zuza Mengham** for a special exhibition of bespoke sculptures, running until 22 May.

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## The Making of the World

With more than 15 countries represented this year, London Craft Week's global reach is more extensive than ever. The programme features a roster of events exploring art and craft traditions ranging from Japan and China to Italy and Portugal – many of which have never before been exhibited in the UK.

- **The Embassy of Portugal** brings together porcelain manufacturer Vista Alegre and furniture designer Boca do Lobo for 'Portuguese Crafts: Once Upon a Time', an exhibition that demonstrates how the traditional and the contemporary meet in the work of both brands.
- Over the course of two events, **Craft Village** presents the work of artisans working in India's most traditional crafts, including weaving, woodworking, embroidery, metal inlay, narrative art and pottery.

- **Japan House** hosts an exhibition focusing on the Yoshioka family, who have been dying textiles with dyes harvested from flower petals, stalks, leaves, roots, tree bark, nuts and other natural materials for six generations.
- **The Ministry of Culture Taiwan** and **Tao Lin Studio** present 'The Science and Art of Pottery', the debut UK exhibition of Taiwanese ceramics master Jui-Fang Hsueh, whose unique pieces are the result of an ongoing process of chemical experimentation.
- Visitors can discover Italian crafts by exploring a showcase curated by the **Italian Trade Agency** and **Confartigianato** at **Maison Assouline**. The installation of contemporary handcrafted tableware is inspired by the colours, atmospheres and memories of Italian life.



Felicity Irons, Rushmatters

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### **One-off Workshops & Exclusive Pop-ups**

London Craft Week presents countless unique opportunities to engage with leading makers and try their disciplines first-hand. These include one-off pop-up events, demonstrations exclusive to London Craft Week and unprecedented invitations to go behind the scenes of crafts of all kinds.

- At the **British Standard Cupboards showroom**, Felicity Irons, founder of Rushmatters, leads a hands-on workshop in the English art of rush weaving – a craft unchanged since the Anglo-Saxon era. Using techniques including twining, coiling, plaiting, knotting, sewing and roping, participants will learn how to make their own basket.
  - **The Conran Shop** welcomes silkscreen and digital printing specialist Make-Ready to its flagship store for a five-day live screen-printing demonstration. Over 300 Bauhaus-inspired prints will be created, including five limited-edition designs by Sascha Lobe available to collect over the week.
  - **The Room Service** presents ‘Unloved to Luxury’ a workshop with luxury lifestyle brand Elvis & Kresse, showing guests how to transform rescued leather products into high-end home accessories.
  - Wallpaper historian Allyson McDermott visits the **William Morris Society** to lead a wallpaper-making workshop and tour of the Emery Walker House, inspired by Morris’ original designs and Allyson’s conservation work on the wallpapers in situ.
  - **Coal Drops Yard** has commissioned Japanese artisan farmer-dyer collective BUAISOU, who craft beautifully made high-end clothing, to produce an installation composed of indigo flags and lead a series of public workshops. BUAISOU is based in Tokushima, known for the of the notoriously difficult-to-produce Awa Indigo, and its designers are responsible for everything from growing and cultivating the indigo crop, to dyeing the fabric and crafting the clothing.
  - On Duke Street in Mayfair, **TedWood & Friends** hosts an exhibition showcasing six artists and craftsmen who use wood to handcraft contemporary pieces that traverse function, art and design, featuring works by Ted Jefferis, Wycliffe Stutchbury, Luke Hope, Max Bainbridge, Abigail Booth and Jane Crisp.
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## Crafting Futures

As well as celebrating global making traditions, London Craft Week investigates the future of the creative industries, spotlighting the makers and methods at the cutting-edge of innovation and exploring the ideas set to transform the industry in the years to come.

- With ‘Craft Recoded’, **Makerversity** looks at the relationship between the digital and the handmade, using demonstrations, workshops and tours to illustrate exploring how new technologies are changing our understanding of craft.

- **Camberwell College of Art** hosts an exhibition of experimental designs, including fast pot-throwing techniques which push the limits of what the human body can create and the first 3D-printed ceramic tile.
- At the **V&A**, filmmaker Jonathan Hamilton has created a virtual-reality version of late stage and costume designer Paul Brown’s studio.
- At Sugarhouse Studios in Bermondsey, **Assemble** and Thinking City presents a panel discussion exploring the changing role of craft in our cities.
- As party of **Morley College London’s** Penny Lecture and Craft Workshops, the former editor of Crafts magazine Grant Gibson considers the future of craft, asking ‘How craft got hip – and can it stay that way?’
- **STORE store** in Coal Drops Yard will host a series of public dyeing workshops, run by some of the most exciting designers working in the UK. They include science-inspired Unit Lab, who will teach participants the art of ‘Electro Colour’ – printing with electricity.



Juan Junca, Assemble

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## Creative Communities

A number of this year’s events explore craft-based initiatives and community making enterprises around the world, demonstrating craft’s role in sustaining and strengthening social fabric.

– Supported by international law firm Simmons & Simmons, Edmund Le Brun and Flore de Taisne discuss the challenges and opportunities of setting up ISHKAR – the craft retailer that trades exclusively with artisans in countries at war.

– **The World Monuments Fund** and the **Imperial War Museum** present a talk on the Refugee Stonemasonry Programme in Jordan, which give Syrian refugees the skills they will need to rebuild their homes when peace returns.

– **FRONT Rugs** in Mayfair presents a talk with award-winning rug maker Lila Valadan about the female rug makers of Iran, the natural materials they use and the philosophy behind their craft.

– **Hiut Denim**, the jean makers responsible for breathing new life into the Welsh town of Cardigan, demonstrate what goes into a pair of their handcrafted jeans and discuss how they are bringing manufacturing back to Wales.

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These are just a small fraction of the events that make up London Craft Week – for the full programme, visit [londoncraftweek.com](http://londoncraftweek.com).

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#### **About London Craft Week**

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, as well as long-standing partners and supporters: Cadogan, Coal Drops Yard, Grosvenor Britain and Ireland (Mount Street and Pimlico Road), The Conran Shop, the Italian Trade Agency, the Crown Estate, LOEWE and St James's.

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