

LONDON CRAFT WEEK

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LONDON CRAFT WEEK 2019

A World in the Making

8–12 May

London Craft Week returns to the capital this May for its fifth edition, presenting an exceptional showcase of craftsmanship and creativity from around the globe. Once again this unique and ambitious event is supported by headline sponsors dunhill and Purdey.

Unfolding at hundreds of venues across the city, the one-of-a-kind festival creates a raft of opportunities to interact with leading craftspeople, thought leaders, brand figureheads, critics and artists, with a packed schedule of talks, workshops, exhibitions and creative encounters.

Over five days, more than 240 established and emerging makers, designers, heritage and contemporary brands and galleries from around the world invite the public to venture on a journey of discovery behind the scenes to explore the people, processes and materials behind exceptional products, garments, artworks and other crafted objects.

Spanning fragrance and furniture, couture and calligraphy, jewellery and ceramics, the festival is a wide-ranging platform for artists and makers in every sector, working both in the UK and internationally. From globally renowned institutions and revered retailers to cult design studios, social enterprise and maker spaces, London Craft Week unites diverse and iconic venues in a city-wide tribute to creative excellence, including: The V&A and the Royal Academy of Arts to Zegna and MATCHESFASHION.COM; The Conran Shop and Carl Hansen to The Italian Cultural Institute and MADE IN JAPAN PROJECT.

Last year's festival welcomed 99,298 visitors to more than 200 events and exhibitions. In 2019, London Craft Week's vibrant and interdisciplinary programme spotlights elite craftsmanship wherever it is found – whether that's the engine of a Rolls Royce Phantom, the atelier of a Viennese glassmaker or the carved medieval stones of St Paul's Cathedral. Exploring a culture of creativity, visitors have countless opportunities to understand the full context in which beautiful objects are made, to meet the creators and witness their remarkable skills and talent up close and in person.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

This year's London Craft Week programme seeks to underline London's status as a vibrant hub of international craft, encompassing makers of all sizes and scales, from the studios of celebrated masters to the hidden workshops of little-known producers.

Confirmed highlights include:

– ***A huge selection of independent makers*** 2019 sees some of the most exciting names in modern making taking part, including:

- Furniture artist **Yinka Ilori** redesigning a Nine Elms railway bridge;
- Rush weaver **Felicity Irons** collaborating with kitchen cabinet company British Standard;
- Sculptor **Lucille Lewin** opening up her home studio for a talk with *rakesprogress* magazine;
- Ceramicist **Matthew Raw** leading a series of workshops at the Barbican Centre, giving participants the chance to have their own work exhibited during London Craft Week;
- Textile artist **Lora Avedian** in residence at Leighton House Museum;
- Tableware ceramicist **Owen Wall** receiving a dedicated exhibition at Tate Modern design store Tate Edit.

– ***A strong international outlook*** London Craft Week will once again look towards Asia, with a broad range of makers and organisations from Japan, China, Hong Kong, Thailand and Korea represented throughout.

Japan House, which opened in summer 2018, explores fashion, textiles, art and cuisine, while historic department store **Heal's** presents the UK debut of work by makers from the Gifu area. The design shop **Wagumi** will host a workshop/demonstration focused on Kintsugi – the art of repairing broken pottery with metallic lacquer.

Meanwhile, **The Portuguese Ambassador's Residence** will host Vista Alegre and Bordallo Pinheiro, two of the country's most celebrated ceramics companies, while events with **The Italian Cultural Institute** and **Italian Trade Authority** will position Italy as a country of focus for 2019.

– ***Dedicated destinations*** As in previous years, galleries, retailers and studios in various areas of the city will come together to collaborate and mutually explore specific craft themes. **Pimlico Road** favourites including **Daylesford**, **Robert Kime**, **Rose Uniacke**, **Cox London**, **Jamb** and **Carl Hansen & Søn** present a range of interior events on the theme 'Crafting Interiors'. **Mount Street** brands such as **Pringle**, **MATCHESFASHION.COM** and **Christian Louboutin** will collaborate with artists to create artworks commissioned and curated by **Wood Society of the Arts**.

'**Sloane Street: Defining Luxury**' sees the legendary thoroughfare's shops come together for a series

of in-store events examining the dramatic transformations in the luxury sector that have taken place in recent decades. Businesses such as **Fortnum & Mason**, **Floris** and **D.R. Harris & Co** from across **St James's London** will explore the five senses of craft in 'A Sensory Journey'.

– *Exclusive events, talks and discussions* including:

- Retailer and social enterprise **ISHKAR** and international law firm **Simmons & Simmons** will be discussing the challenges of working with artisans in countries of war.
 - **Studiollse** hosts a dinner and wine tasting with Viennese glassmakers **Lobmeyr**, exploring the impact of glass thickness on the experience of drinking.
 - **The Conran Shop** welcomes printing specialists **Make-Ready** to its flagship store in Chelsea for a five-day live screen-printing installation, to create over 300 Bauhaus-inspired prints to mark the design school's centenary.
 - **TOAST** on Westbourne Grove hosts an evening with embroidery artist **Celia Pym**.
 - **Sugarhouse**, a creative workspace and wood workshop run by Turner Prize-winning collective **Assemble** in partnership with **Workshop East**, brings together work from a diverse range of practitioners. On Friday 10 May, **Assemble** and **Thinking City** explore the changing role of craft in our cities in a panel discussion with invited guests.
 - A discussion between maker, institution, publisher and academic, led by Yelena Ford of **The New Craftsmen** in North Mayfair, examines the changing relationship and intersections between craft and design.
 - **Barnaby Barford** and **Christie Brown** share their insights 'On the psychology of the creative process' at the **Freud Museum**.
 - Presented by **Cockpit Arts**, design writer **Katie Treggiden** chairs a debate with Cockpit CEO **Annie Warburton**, makers **David Marques** and **Majeda Clarke**, and Mayor's Office representative **Ed Bayes**, considering how London craft businesses can continue to thrive in the face of soaring costs.
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– *Hands-on making opportunities* Every day of London Craft Week provides new possibilities to try your hand at any number of crafts, such as upcycling Burberry leather with sustainable luxury brand **Elvis & Kresse**, courtesy of **The Room Service** and **Plain English**; hand-making Anish Kapoor-inspired mirrors at **Pizhanger Gallery**, and taking part in a mass upholstery 'Make-a-thon' charity event at **Shoreditch Design Rooms**.

The full programme of 240+ events will be published on the [London Craft Week website](#) in March 2019.

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Notes to Editors

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