

# LONDON CRAFT WEEK

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## London Craft Week: the Highlights of 2018

The fourth edition of **London Craft Week** has now drawn to a close, ending a celebration of artistry and making that saw hundreds of locations around the city become part of a showcase for craft in all its forms. From **Peckham** to **Walthamstow**, **Brixton** to **Mayfair**, thousands of curious visitors met makers, acquired new skills at hands-on workshops, watched live demonstrations and heard leading creatives share their ideas and insights.

*'Feedback on this year's London Craft Week has been extremely positive, and many events sold out. With our strongest programme yet, we successfully brought together visitors, makers and brands – and there was a real sense of engagement and discovery. Visitors were able to meet makers face-to-face, hear what inspires them and understand the skills and materials involved in making something extraordinary. We're looking forward to building on this in 2019.'*

– Jonathan Burton, Festival Director

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Yuta Segawa's live demonstration at The Conran Shop's Global Market. Photography by Dan Weill.

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The LOEWE Craft Prize 2018 exhibition at the Design Museum.

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With so many events happening over the five-day period, and such a diverse range of craft disciplines involved, it's impossible to do justice to everything that took place at this year's festival, but highlights included:

- Dame Helen Mirren presented the second **LOEWE Craft Prize** to Scottish ceramic artist **Jennifer Lee**, for her stoneware vessel '**Pale, Shadowed Speckled Traces, Fading Ellipse, Bronze Specks, Tilted Shelf**'. The jury, which included LOEWE creative director Jonathan Anderson; president of the World Crafts Council Rosy Greenlees; director of the Design Museum Deyan Sudjic; industrial designer Patricia Urquiola; and 2017 winner Ernst Gamperl, also gave special mentions to French textile artist, Simone Pheulpin and Japanese potter Takuro Kuwata. The work of all 30 finalists is on display at the Design Museum until 17 June.
  - **Liberty** helped launch London Craft Week by announcing the winners of the Instagram-based talent search **#LibertyOpenCall**: sculptural designer **Alex Chinneck**, and ceramicist **Katch Skinner** and **Rūta Bartkevičiūtė**. Products by the three makers are now exclusively available to buy in Liberty's homeware department.
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Wood artist Mark Reddy's demonstration at dunhill's 'Home of Craftsmanship'. Photography by Dan Weill.

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- London Craft Week headline sponsor **dunhill**, in collaboration with **Hole & Corner**, welcomed hundreds of visitors to their 'Home of Craftsmanship' at dunhill's Mayfair flagship store Bourdon House. Over four days, dunhill's leather craftsmen demonstrated their skills alongside glass artist **Michael Ruh**, metalworker **Alex Pole**, weaver **Maria Sigma**, ceramicist **Florian Gadsby** and wood artist **Mark Reddy** – and visitors were able to try their own craft skills with spoon-carving and bookmark-making workshops.
  - Headline sponsor **Purdey** introduced visitors to the heritage of gun-making at its Audley House store, as well as hosting demonstrations from resident knife maker **Chris Matthews** and bespoke leather shoemakers **Carré-Ducker**.
  - The **most international edition** yet, London Craft Week 2018 saw 25% of the participating makers come from outside the UK, with exhibitors from China at the Hospital Club demonstrating the country's heritage of fine craftsmanship at **AMAZING CHINA**. Moroccan textile and interior accessories brand **LRNCE** joined a host of specialist makers for **Global Market** at **The Conran Shop** on Fulham Road. Nobu Hotel in Shoreditch hosted an extraordinary exhibition of Japanese ceramics, silks, candles and cuisine with **Experience Kyoto**. **OMA Space** brought garments, design pieces and art installations from Seoul to Livingstone Studio to showcase the timeless aesthetics and hand-crafted quality of contemporary Korean textiles; while **The Han Collection** presented a trio of master crafts of the Korean Peninsula – ceramics, embroidery and lacquerware.
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Miniature pots by Yuta Segawa at The Conran Shops' Global Market. Photography by Dan Weill.

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• This year's London Craft Week was also the most diverse in terms of craft disciplines featured, giving festival-goers a taste of an astonishingly broad spectrum of making techniques. **Designer Bookbinders** and the **St Bride Foundation** teamed up to offer hands-on introductions in wood-engraving an illustration, setting type, printing and traditional bookbinding. Multidisciplinary artist **Stephanie Tudor** dropped in on the Institute of Making to lead a workshop on casting and moulding **Jesmonite** tiles. **Deakin and Francis** in Piccadilly introduced visitors to the 2,000-year-old practice of **vitreous enamelling**. The award-winning designer **Genevieve Bennet** introduced Home House visitors to the contemporary interlacing techniques used in **leather braiding**; and the team behind the redevelopment of **Battersea Power Station** even showed attendees how to **throw their own bricks**.

• Some participants used London Craft Week as an opportunity to explore the lives and works of legendary figures in art and craft. **White Cube Gallery** enriched its current exhibition of Brazilian artist **Beatriz Milhazes** with an exclusive tour and a talk from weaving studio **Ateliers Pinton**, discussing the challenges of transforming **Milhazes'** work into three-dimensional textile art. **The New Craftsmen** chose to showcase

the work of British designer, teacher and painter Peggy Angus, accompanying a selection of her hand-blocked wallpapers with an exhibition of new work in sculpture, figurines, decorative bowls and plates, block-printed fabric, drawing and collage from contemporary makers **Aude van Ryn**, **Alex Sickling**, **Jo Waterhouse** and **Laura Carlin**.

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• Other events gave people **first-hand insights** into some of the most closely guarded techniques in modern craft. **Studio Furthermore** took over **MADEINBRITALLY**'s Little Venice Gallery to share the secrets of 'lost foam' ceramics techniques. **The Art Workers' Guild** shone a light on the techniques and talents behind the craft of **British millinery**, showcasing pieces from the likes of Phillip Treacy and Stephen Jones. **William & Son** gathered eight artisanal **watchmakers** at its Bruton Street boutique to demonstrate the intricate art of horology (and unveil the latest timepieces shown at Baselworld). The jeweller **Shaun Leane** took visitors behind the scenes of its atelier and design rooms to reveal the journey from design concept to finished piece. **QEST** and the **Heritage Crafts Association** gathered 20 accomplished craftspeople at **The Carpenters' Company** to demonstrate techniques from the worlds of woodworking, leatherwork, silversmithing, basketry, letter cutting and more – including **John Makepeace OBE**. In Chelsea, 12 retailers each explored the theme of texture for Grosvenor Britain & Ireland's **Pimlico Road Series**, with events ranging from **basket making demonstrations at Colefax & Fowler** to exploring traditional techniques of **texturing metal at Cox London**.

Since its inception in 2015, London Craft Week has gone from **60 events to almost 230**, and broadened its scope to include brands and makers from all over the world. It is now a firmly established fixture on the global creative calendar, and – after a tremendously successful fourth edition – poised to expand in scope, ambition and impact for the **fifth edition in 2019**.



Studio Furthermore at MADEINBRITALLY.

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## Notes to editors

### About London Craft Week

**2018 Dates:** 9–13 May

Since its first edition in 2015, London Craft Week has showcased the very best in craftsmanship from the UK and internationally. For five days each May, more than 200 craft-focused events can be found all over the city – in iconic buildings including the Shard and the House of Lords, world-class institutions such as the V&A, as well as artists’ studios, luxury retailers and hidden spaces rarely open to the public. A not-for-profit organisation, London Craft Week emphasises the excitement of discovery, enabling visitors to meet artists, designers, makers and engineers; gain behind-the-scenes access to famous luxury brands and explore heritage techniques and cutting-edge innovation.

### About 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.

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

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