

Dowel Jones

PRESS RELEASE, 06 March 2017

MADE IN MELBOURNE: DOWEL JONES GETS SET FOR THE SALONE

The Australian design duo unveil a freshly expanded furniture collection
at Local Milan

On **4–9 April 2017**, Australian design studio **Dowel Jones** swaps Melbourne for Milan, making its return to the Salone with **Local Milan** – a showcase of 11 hand-picked studios and individuals representing the best of contemporary Australian design.

In the three years since they launched **Dowel Jones**, **Adam Lynch** and **Dale Hardiman** have transformed what was a university collaboration into one of the most exciting emerging brands on the Australian design scene. Their shared talent for stripping everyday products down to their basics has resulted in an ever-growing range of fun and functional minimalist pieces that sit beautifully in any modern setting. Their work can be found in independent cafés, bars, restaurants and hotels across Australia and New Zealand – especially their *Hurdle* chairs and stools, whose customisable materials, economical all-Australian production and elegant simplicity has made them a hit with commercial and residential outlets worldwide.



Half Hurdle Bench and Sir Burlly by Dowel Jones. Photography by Cricket Studio.

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This year, however, marks the first time **Dowel Jones** has presented a complete furniture collection to the Salone's international audience. As well as their original *Half Hurdle* and *Full Hurdle Chairs*, the duo are expanding the collection with three new additions – the *Half High Hurdle Chair*, *Full High Hurdle Chair* and *Half Hurdle Bench*. They will be displaying these alongside *Thimble* – their stackable indoor/outdoor stools introduced in early 2017 – the playfully chunky tubular-steel stool *Sir Burly*, and his new, taller companion: *Sir Burly High*.

'Each, year we've presented new work in Milan and it's been quite sporadic in style and concept. This year we've decided to present a consolidated collection that represents our principles.'

Dale Hardiman, Co-Founder – Dowel Jones



Half Hurdle Chair by Dowel Jones. Photography by Cricket Studio.

The core typology of the Hurdle chair was one of the first things to come out of **Lynch** and **Hardiman's** collaboration, initially conceived while they were both studying at Melbourne's RMIT University. Working on a design for a trestle, alongside Melbourne manufacturers, they developed a distinctive bend in the tubular steel frame that created a profile silhouette reminiscent of an athletic hurdle. The resemblance gave the collection its name, and has become a signature feature of the expanded collection.

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Inspired by the way people would use mooring posts in Melbourne harbour as impromptu seating, *Thimble* was also named for its resemblance to another object – in this case the embroiderer’s tool – while *Sir Burly*, initially conceived as furniture for a playground setting, gets its name from the stools’ chunky, anthropomorphic form.

All pieces are available in a range of colours and finishes (showing in Milan: Dusty Pink, Pale Eucalypt and textured white powder coat), and are produced in accordance with **Dowel Jones**’ guiding principles: elegantly simple forms, locally sourced materials and exclusively Australian manufacturers.



Half High Hurdle Chair, Half Hurdle Chair and Sir Burly High by Dowel Jones.
Photography by Cricket Studio.

LOCAL MILAN

Now in its second year, the **Local Milan** exhibition occupies the historic Oratorio della Passione on Piazza Sant’Ambrogio – part of Milan old town’s **5VIE** art and design district. Conceived by **Local Design** – the Australian design hub and collective founded and curated by designer and stylist Emma Elizabeth – Local Milan explores the distinctions between design and art, creating a unified, immersive space featuring an interior shaped by 8,000 hand-laid bricks. Aesop fragrances, drinking and dining elements and music from Australian singer-songwriter Tash Sultana transform the gallery into a multisensory experience, with

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a tactile dimension introduced by the distribution of white gloves to exhibition visitors, further underscoring the ambiguous relationship between design and art.

Dowel Jones' *Thimble*, *Sir Burly* and *Hurdle* collection will appear alongside work from their fellow designers Tom Fereday, Jon Goulder, Tom Skeehan, Adam Goodrum, Christopher Boots, Kate Banazi, Charles Wilson, Ross Gardam, ACV Studio and Local Design's founder Emma Elizabeth.

By showcasing a diverse array of established designers currently working in the country, the show aims to provide an overview of contemporary design in Australia, dispel international preconceptions about Australia as a design nation, and place **Dowel Jones** and their contemporaries in the global spotlight.



Half High Hurdle Chair by Dowel Jones. Photography by Cricket Studio.

For more information about **Dowel Jones** and the *Hurdle*, *Burly* and *Thimble* collections, please contact me (Jodi Moss) at jodi@zetteler.co.uk or call +44 (0)7910 705147.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

LOCAL MILAN

Dates: 4–9 April 2017

Press preview: 3 April 2017

Address: Oratorio della Passione, Piazza Sant’Ambrogio 15, Milano

Opening hours

Monday 3rd (press preview) 12–5pm

Tuesday 4th 10am–6pm

Wednesday 5th 10am–10pm

Thursday – Sunday 10am–6pm

About Dowel Jones

Dale Hardiman and Adam Lynch create accessible, functional furniture and lighting, with a focus on local Australian suppliers and producers. Having met while studying at RMIT University, they launched Dowel Jones in 2013, making waves on the Melbourne design scene with their debut product, the eponymous, fixing-free, wood-and-rubber Mr. Dowel Jones lamp. The studio produces chairs, tables, lighting and desk accessories characterised by everyday materials, simplified processes and a strong emphasis on functionality. Their work can be found in spas, bars, cafés hotels and homes throughout Australia and beyond.

doweljones.com | Instagram: [@doweljones](https://www.instagram.com/doweljones)



Dale Hardiman and Adam Lynch of Dowel Jones. Photography by Cricket Studio.
