

Press Release | April 2022

The Future of Craft returns to Bargehouse at Oxo Tower Wharf for London Craft Week 2022



Above (L-R): Selected works by Design-Nation and Future Icons members exhibiting at The Future of Craft

The Future of Craft exhibition will return to Bargehouse at Oxo Tower Wharf from 12-15 May 2022, as part of this year's London Craft Week. After enjoying a successful launch in 2019, this destination event will provide a vibrant and creative hub for visitors keen to experience and explore modern approaches to craft. Curated by **Oxo Tower Wharf**, and in collaboration with **Design-Nation** and **Future Icons**, The Future of Craft will showcase innovative, dynamic and forward-looking craft collectives, practitioners and organisations.

Across four floors of the visually appealing, raw and industrial Bargehouse, visitors to The Future of Craft will discover new projects, installations and collaborations from over 40 pioneering makers, working in a range of craft disciplines: ceramics, furniture, interior accessories, lighting, metalwork, textiles and more.

Special features include **Fung+Bedford**, who will transform the Bargehouse with their origami inspired large scale paper installations '*Gathering*' and '*18*'. **Cockpit Collective** will present '*Textile + Surface*', an artist-led showcase of craftspeople working within textile and surface design, and **Royal College of Art Chinese Students and Scholars Association** will showcase '*Absent Traces*', a collective of student and graduate work.

This year, our visitors will also be treated to a 4 day programme of free talks and maker demonstrations. Highlights include a panel discussion with podcaster **Grant Gibson** of Material Matters and large scale marbling demonstrations from **Nat Maks**.

A must-see event during London Craft Week 2022, The Future of Craft will provide an insightful, interactive and intelligent exhibit, fostering learning and encouraging debate around the many approaches to craft and its future potential.



Above (L-R): Selected works by Design-Nation and Future Icons members exhibiting at The Future of Craft

The Future of Craft: collaborators and exhibitions

Placing an emphasis on the value of design and craft as integral to the UK's creative and cultural legacy, **Design-Nation** is working to build a rich and diverse portfolio of contemporary designer-makers. At The Future of Craft, Design-Nation will present a headline showcase of brand new projects and products, spanning two rooms at Bargehouse. With an impressive line-up of craft disciplines and the participation

of 17 superlative designer-makers, Design-Nation will ensure visitors experience a truly creative display of crafts, including ceramics, furniture and textiles.

Design-Nation exhibitors include **Angus Ross; Anne Mckenzie Botanic Calligraphic Art; Arra Textiles; Bridget Bailey; Coucou Manou; Emily Jo Gibbs; Jacky Puzey Embroidery; Kira Phoenix K'inan; Kirsty Adams Ceramics; Majeda Clarke; Michéle Oberdieck; Momoka Gomi** and **Wolfram Lohr**. A special new feature will introduce work from Design-Nation graduate members **Cathy Green Ceramics, Gunn Ceramics** and **The Metalsmith**. Plus exclusive installations from **Fung+Bedford**.

Future Icons represents a choice portfolio of design and craft-led businesses, whose collections include a fine array of interior and fashion accessories, furniture, artwork and objets d'art. At The Future of Craft, Future Icons will present a singular selection of works from 12 of its clients, all leading contemporary craft practitioners. Disciplines on display will include: ceramics, furniture, textiles, and metal, leather and paper artworks. Visitors will be able to purchase pieces from individual makers.

Future Icons exhibitors include **Bronwyn Higgins; Louise Heighes; Lucie Summers; Kei Tominaga; Lark & Bower; Pipet Design; RHMB; Ikuko Iwamoto; Jo Davies; Gabriel Eden James; Judy McKenzie** and **Nat Maks**.

Cockpit Collective, presents '*Textile + Surface*', an artist-led showcase of eleven craftspeople working within textile and surface design. The London-based collective, who excel in material innovation and craft artistry, each tell a material story spanning a wide range of specialist crafts from natural dyeing to weaving with waste.

Cockpit Collective exhibitors include: **Alicia Rowbotham; Millie Thomas; Alice Timmis; Hannah Refaat; Vicky Cowin; Ellen Williams; Anna Davies; Hannah Galvin-Horne; Kendall Clarke; Kamilah Ahmed** and **Sophie Graney**.

More highlights to be announced soon.

Notes to Editors

Dates: 12-15 May 2022

Opening Times: 11am – 6pm

Address: Bargehouse, Oxo Tower Wharf, Bargehouse Street, South Bank, London SE1 9PH

Private View: 11 May, 6-9pm RSVP to rsvp@seenpr.com

www.oxotower.co.uk | [#TheFutureofCraft](https://twitter.com/TheFutureofCraft) | [@OxoTowerWharf](https://twitter.com/OxoTowerWharf)

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About Oxo Tower Wharf

Oxo Tower Wharf is home to some of the UK's most innovative and internationally renowned designers. Visitors can explore over 25 open designer-maker studios across three floors of the iconic Oxo Tower Wharf Building - select studios will be running their own events as part of London Craft Week. This building is also home to contemporary exhibition spaces, Bargehouse and gallery@oxo.

www.oxotower.co.uk | @OxoTowerWharf

About Coin Street

Oxo Tower Wharf is owned and managed by Coin Street Community Builders (CSCB). CSCB is a social enterprise which means income generated by commercial activities stays in the neighbourhood and is used to deliver a range of community programmes and maintain our site which includes Bernie Spain Gardens and Riverside Walkway.

www.coinstreet.org | @CoinStreet

About Design-Nation

Design-Nation is a leading portfolio of some of the most acclaimed and innovative designers and craftspeople from across the UK. Our mission is to bring together partners, champions and investment, to strengthen business and creative development in the contemporary design and crafts sector.

Design-Nation: future thinking for design and craft

www.designnation.co.uk | @design_nationuk

About Future Icons

Future Icons represents a select collection of design and craft led businesses that produce the finest interior accessories, furniture, metalworks, textiles, artwork and objet d'art internationally. Launched in May 2017, Future Icons director Louisa Pacifico created this bespoke agency to support selected brands by introducing them to commercial and profile-raising opportunities. She recognises that clients of Future Icons can struggle with the balance of maintaining every aspect of their business by themselves, therefore supports them to allow them to do what they do best; create.

www.futureicons.co.uk | @futureicons_

About London Craft Week

London Craft Week is an annual event that showcases exceptional craftsmanship through a journey-of-discovery programme featuring hidden workshops and unknown makers alongside celebrated masters, famous studios, galleries, shops and luxury brands.

www.londoncraftweek.com | @londoncraftweek

