

# PAD: BACK TO BASICS

As the inspirational PAD returns to Berkeley Square, we ask some of the makers why humble wood is the star of the show

BY LORNA DAVIES

**A**mid this digital age, design has often gone back to basics with the use of natural materials. Wood was a recurring theme at Milan Furniture Fair, which is seen by many as a marker of future design trends. And it seems this year's PAD exhibitors have honed in on this versatile forest fabric. Wood is a recurrent feature of many of the exhibitors' wares for the fair, which takes place in Berkeley Square, from October 2-8.

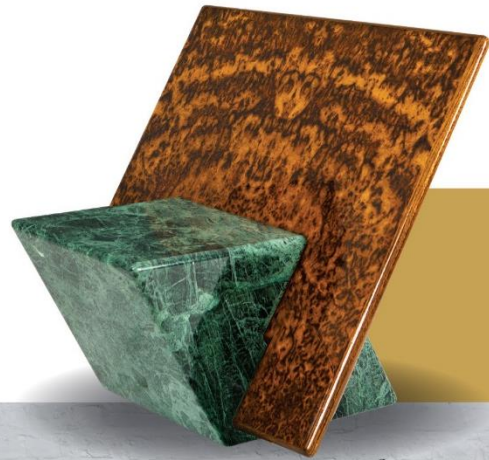
The very chic event, which celebrated its 10th anniversary last year, showcases cross-collecting at its best, with museum-quality modern art, photography, design, decorative and tribal art sitting side by side.

One of the galleries that will be focusing on wood is Sarah Myerscough Gallery, returning to PAD after its debut last year.

"We will be introducing our new collection of contemporary design by established and younger designers, using traditional and cutting-edge processes of making, in wood and other organic materials," says Sarah.

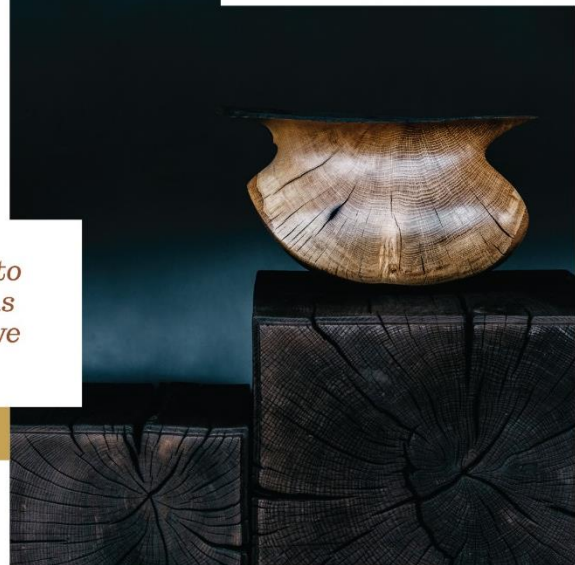
"PAD is an absolute visual feast for the discerning collector. An intimate and luxurious environment to showcase the very best art and design from the most prestigious international specialist galleries. It is utterly unique and characterful, which sets it apart from other fairs. It's an inspirational, welcoming fair set in the heart of Mayfair. For specialist advice on art and design from any period, PAD is the place to visit, where galleries have been specifically selected for their unique aesthetic and specialist knowledge."

With its own lifespan on show, wood is more than merely a surface with which to build, and each piece brings its own personality. Works that Myerscough will be bringing to PAD are all working with the original fabric of the wood, highlighting each



**TOP:** Brooksbank & Collins Fonteyn chair  
**ABOVE:** Christopher Duffy, *Abyss* coffee table  
**BELOW:** Nic Webb, *Keel*  
 Photo: Callum Richards  
**OPPOSITE:** Joseph Walsh, *Enignum* shelves  
 Photo: Andrew Bradley

*"Human making is delicately bound to the materials of the natural world. As we interact with our surroundings, we learn of this interconnection"*







ABOVE: David Gates, *Perpetually Ajar*

BELOW: Boa Vista



groove and imperfection. London designer Christopher Duffy combines art and function in his pieces, playing with concepts of gravity, geometry and illusion. Everything is handmade to order in the UK, using sustainable wood and other eco-friendly materials. Myerscough will bring pieces such as *Abyss Console Table*, 2016 – a solid wooden table with rippled edges and a resin, glass and acrylic blue top that is reminiscent of the sea edging away at a cliff edge.

Also from Myerscough is Irish designer-maker Joseph Walsh, whose works are similarly organic in gesture. His *Enignum* shelves are large, creature-like pieces made from olive ash.

German artist Ernst Gamperl is so committed to wood that he has his own tree farm. He recently won the Loewe Craft Prize for his large, bulbous vessels made from a 300-year-old oak tree felled in a storm. Judges praised him for his reminder of the importance of recycling. His works explore texture, colour and process.

Similarly, Wycliffe Stutchbury's *Peelings Barn* is made from felled common holly from Newark Park in Gloucestershire.

Nic Webb's making is both traditional and experimental, producing work that he expresses to elemental forces and happenings that are beyond the maker's control.

"Human making is delicately bound to the materials of the natural world. As we interact with our surroundings, we realise and learn of this interconnection. As makers, we are able to explore our world and express our thoughts freely. Freedom is our greatest privilege and with this, responsibility becomes our only duty," he says.

On the opposite side of the spectrum, some artists use the material as a blank canvas, honing and controlling it to create perfect pieces.

Joining the roster of Mayfair galleries showing at PAD is Gallery Fumi, which is bringing a rather special chair. The Brooksbank & Collins' Fonteyn chair is named in honour of the celebrated ballet dancer Dame Margot Fonteyn, who, together with her dance partner Rudolf Khametovich Nureyev, mesmerised audiences around the world with their performances.

The Fonteyn chair explores the relationship between two separate but interdependent bodies; the seat of the Fonteyn chair is resolutely athletic, its weight shifted and in motion, it holds its back panel partner in a daring but perfect lift, the two bodies dancing in dynamic equilibrium. The seat is made from a single block of verde guatemala marble giving it weight and strength. The wood aspect here comes from the book-matched burr oak veneer in the back panel.

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Famed Danish design duo Christensen & Larsen often used wood in their armchairs, along with leather. Modernity Stockholm will be bringing pieces such as Armchair Elizabeth, designed by Ib Kofod Larsen for Christensen & Larsen, its rosewood frame and leather seat invite you to lounge.

If chunkier pieces are what you like, stop by Galerie Le Beau's stand for Jorge Zalszupin's Pair of Presidential armchairs, made from Jacaranda wood in the 1960s, or Oscar Graf for a Harvey Ellis Cube armchair, 1903.

Graf also has delicate pieces such as Hans Christiansen's Pair of Tables, 1903-1905, or Gustave Serrurier-Bovy's elaborate Settle, 1899.

**PAD London is at Berkeley Square, October 2-8**  
[pad-fairs.com](http://pad-fairs.com)



**TOP:** Ernst Gamperl, Vessels  
 Photo: James Champion

**MIDDLE:** Eleanor Lakelin, Raised Vessel

**BOTTOM:** Wycliffe Stutchbury, Peelings Barn

### More to see at PAD

The 11th edition of PAD London will be its biggest to date, with 67 galleries including 11 newcomers. The works span from contemporary, modern and historical design, to modern and tribal art, jewellery and antiques.

#### CONTEMPORARY DESIGN COMMISSIONS

South Korean designer Wonmin Park will reveal a new body of work at Carpenters Workshop Gallery, drawing away from coloured resin and into aluminium.

French duo Ronan & Erwin Bouroullec will present a new table, Y-122, at Kreo for the first time.

German designer Pia Maria Raeder will present new Anemone floor lamps at Galerie BSL. Up and coming designers



Nacho Carbonell, Guglielmo Poletti and Fernando Mastrangelo have also commissioned new works to show at Rossana Orlandi's first time at PAD.

#### EMERGING BRITISH DESIGN

Matthew Chambers' minimal geometric ceramics will be introduced by PAD first-timer Mouvements Moderns, while

Bethan Laura Wood will show two new pieces at Nilufar.

#### JEWELLERY

Look for Suzanne Belperron sparklers at Siegelson; ancient pieces at newcomer Ma Tei; meticulously crafted new jewels at Hemmerle; and artist jewellery at Mayfair's Louisa Guinness.

#### TRIBAL

A 19th-century Fang mask at Lucas Ratton; a Greek Chalcidian helmet at Phoenix Ancient Art; and Peter Petrou's amazing cabinet of curiosities.

#### PAD RESTAURANT

This year, the PAD London Restaurant and Ruinart Champagne Bar will be adorned with luxury fabrics and wallpapers by French house Maison Pierre Frey.