

RICK OWENS PREHISTORIC

MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER - FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2013 LONDON, MAYFAIR

PRIVATE VIEW THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 6 - 8 PM



RICK OWENS | CURIAL (PETRIFIED WOOD), 2011, PETRIFIED WOOD, H66 L83 W60 CM / H26 L32.7 W23.6 IN, LIMITED EDITION OF 8 + 4 AP, COURTESY CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY

From September 9th to November 29th, Carpenters Workshop Gallery will show in London an exceptional exhibition by the designer Rick Owens. A unique exhibition which presents a series of unusual pieces, especially designed for the gallery space.



PORTRAIT OF RICK OWENS, COURTESY RICK OWENS

A Southern California native, the designer Rick Owens displays a demanding and singular aesthetic in fashion. His original vision plays on material. He has lived and worked in Paris for the past nine years but the dark, minimalist style of his designs was created in the United States. He is a huge film fan with a particular penchant for the black and white productions of thirties Hollywood with their sensual and tragic contrasts and values. He tends toward the reconciliation of light and darkness in his work, much like the cinematic masterpieces from this era.

The garment is mobile, fluid and asymmetrical, and as such can be shifted and recomposed an infinite number of times. However, the exercise is different with furniture: it is designed to last, it becomes our heritage. It is part of our daily lives fulfilling a function, providing the domestic space with a rhythm and a reference.

This unusual research for a fashion designer is not completely unprecedented, Poiret, Larvin, Rei Kawakubo and others have all ventured into furniture design at one time or another. Rick Owens, who started by making bespoke furniture for his bunker-style loft in L.A., has moved continents. He now lives in Paris and his urge to create has taken a different tack: "As we settled in, and Hun started looking around; the city and time, might have done something to us". In tandem with craftsmen of the highest caliber, he has developed a collection of pieces that express his signature style in cut, volume and plan. *Prehistoric* is a take on the immutable passage of time in shapes, materials and images.

Rick Owens' designs evoke original furniture through archetypes. There are a number of typologies: the ceremonial chair *Curial*, the *Trident* chair and its structure, the *armchair* from a chest *Halfbox*, the Roman *Daybed*, the private resting space of the *Boudeuse* couch; he reintroduces the *Screen* that becomes an alcove, wall or sculpture in addition to the big dining table *Plug Table*.



RICK OWENS | HALF BOX (PETRIFIED WOOD), 2011
PETRIFIED WOOD, H77 L50 W50 CM / H30.3 L19.7 W19.7 IN
LIMITED EDITION OF 8 + 4 AP
COURTESY CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY

Through his choice of subtle and rare materials, Rick Owens suggests the beauty of original nature and develops a contrasting palette of black and white that confirms the designer's taste for the monochrome. The 500,000 year old fossilized wood throws up subtle nuances of smoked brown and the blackened plywood provides a counterpoint to the lighter tones; alabaster, a sublime material used by sculptors in Sumerian times whose transparent pallor echoes the color of the ivory of a cow's bone. Dealt with in juxtaposition, the values come together and compose a three-dimensional piece that is totally relevant to the designer's own style. He cuts and shapes a transversal and global universe, from fashion to furniture.

ABOUT CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY

Carpenters Workshop Gallery transcends classical borders in terms of art and design. Its proposal stands just at the intersection of these two universes: reaching precisely a symbiosis of art and design.

Carpenters Workshop Gallery produces and exhibits functional sculptures by international rising and already established artists and designers going outside their traditional territories of expression. The gallery is actively involved in the research and production of the limited edition works exhibited.

The choices are guided by the research of an emotional, artistic and historical relevance; a relevance that appears as an evidence.

The gallery relies on the partnership of childhood friends, Julien Lombraill and Loic le Gaillard. They first opened a space in London's Chelsea in 2006 in a former carpenter's workshop; they then followed with a second space in Mayfair in 2008.

The opening of a 600 square metre space in Paris in 2011 at 54 rue de la Verrerie, an address steeped in history as it was previously occupied by the Galerie de France for several decades, is a kind of return to their roots.

This Paris step confirms the commitment of the two founders of the gallery, as well as that of Aurelie Julien, their director, to the international promotion of their artists and designers.

REPRESENTED ARTISTS

ATELIER VAN LIESHOUT
SEBASTIAN BRAJKOVIC
ANDREA BRANZI
HUMBERTO & FERNANDO CAMPANA
WENDELL CASTLE
INGRID DONAT
VINCENT DUBOURG
LONNEKE GORDIJN & RALPH
NAUTA
JOHANNA GRAWUNDER
MATHIEU LEHANNEUR
FREDERIK MOLENSCHOT
NENDO
RICK OWENS
RANDOM INTERNATIONAL
PABLO REINOSO
ROBERT STADLER
STUDIO JOB
CHARLES TREVELYAN



RICK OWENS | PLUG TABLE (PETRIFIED WOOD), 2012, PETRIFIED WOOD, BLACK PLYWOOD, H77 L360 W115 CM / H30.3 L141.7 W45.3 IN
LIMITED EDITION OF 4 + 2 AP, COURTESY CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY

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carpenters workshop gallery

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