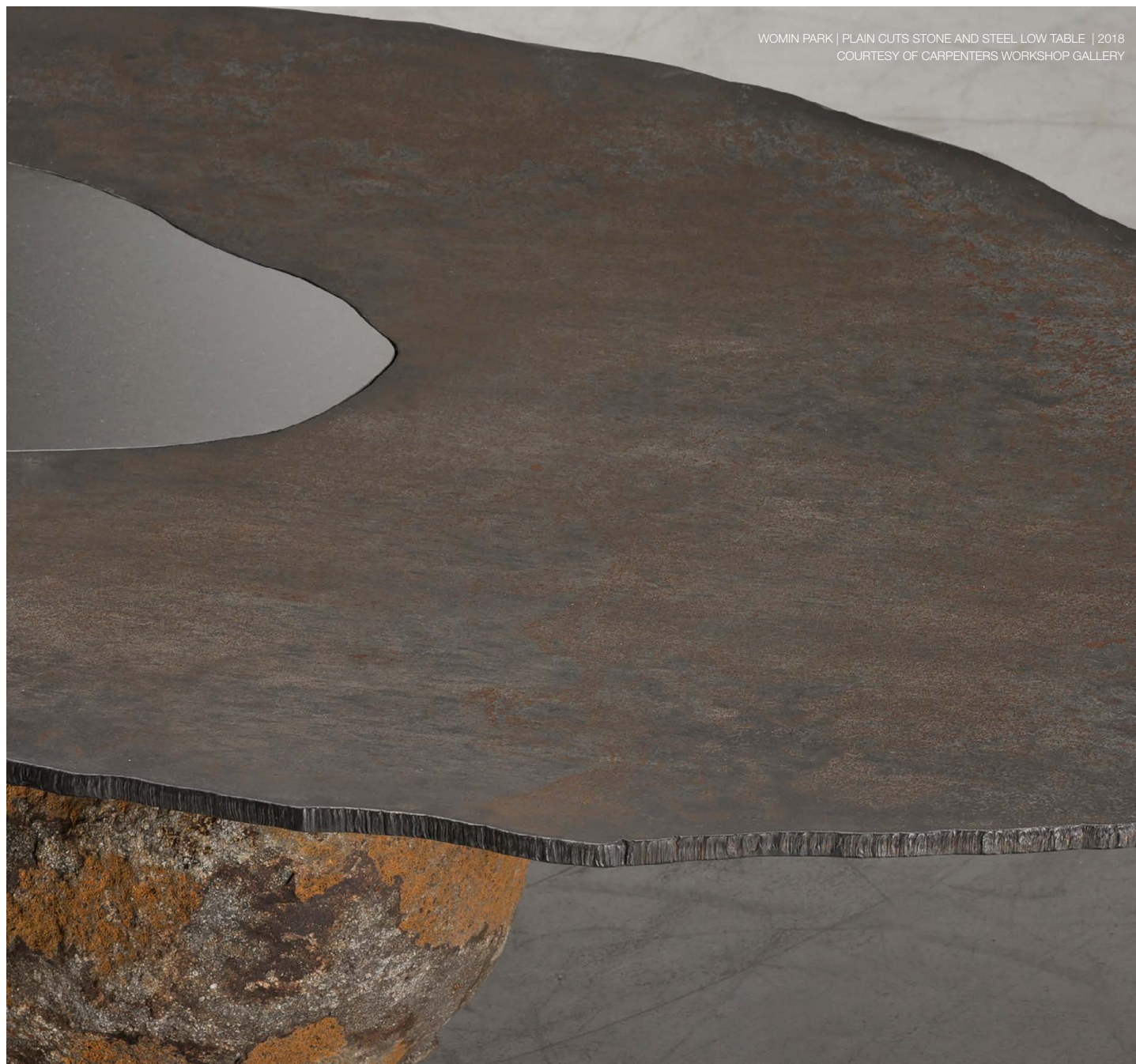


LONDON | CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY

WONMIN PARK STONE & STEEL

16 SEPTEMBER – 23 DECEMBER 2021

PRESS RELEASE



WONMIN PARK | PLAIN CUTS STONE AND STEEL LOW TABLE | 2018
COURTESY OF CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY

OPENING 16 SEPTEMBER 2021
10AM – 6PM | RSVP REQUIRED
BY APPOINTMENT FOR PRESS

4 ALBEMARLE STREET

CARPENTERSWORKSHOP GALLERY

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London, United Kingdom: Carpenters Workshop Gallery presents *Stone & Steel*, a new collection of 10 works by South-Korean artist Wonmin Park, as part of London Design Festival. The collection presents a continuation from his previous series *Plain Cuts*, but whereas *Plain Cuts* used thin aluminium sheets to explore sleek cut geometries, *Stone & Steel* is shaped by the artist's use of volcanic rock and industrial sheets of steel.

The volcanic rocks that form the bases of the tables in *Stone & Steel* are mined in Japan, and when cut open reveal dark, iron-rich interiors in contrast to their ochre, brown shells. This rust-like characteristic is the result of air and moisture penetrating deep fissures in the Earth's crust and oxidising the iron content of the stones, giving each rock a natural patina.

Hand-shaped steel table tops are then fitted perfectly around each stone centre, with engineering levels of precision. The stone centres of each table are highly polished to achieve a jet-black, marmoreal finish, accentuating the contrast with the rough, grainy surface of the stone's exterior. Wonmin is intrigued that every stone is unique, the product of a geological accident millennia ago. He brings this internal history to his work, as evidence of forms and processes greater than himself and his art.

Wonmin Park comments: "The cut of the stone is vital to the success of each piece. Its linearity is something that nature cannot produce - only humans work in straight lines. Their flat-cut sides serve to highlight the textured lines and irregularities of the stones' exteriors, and emphasise their natural beauty. The steel adds dimension to the cut line of the stone and extends it further into space, creating volume and balance."

Loïc Le Gaillard, co-founder of Carpenters Workshop Gallery, comments: "This exhibition at Carpenters signals the growth of Wonmin Park's work. At the heart of *Stone & Steel* is Wonmin's need to explore the full nature of his materials through their various changes of state as he works and processes them."

Wonmin's practice is rooted in Korean and Pan-Asian Aesthetics, which he defines as embracing irregularity, naturalistic simplicity and a disinterest of controlling each aspect of the work. Korean Minimalism, which developed in the 1970s, married human skill with the many imperfections seen in nature, and Wonmin continues this symbiosis in his work. The stones used in *Stone & Steel* are the same as those used by seminal artist Isamu Noguchi, but Wonmin stops short of considering this an homage to the American master. The reference is a material one, not aesthetic, and denotes a continuation of process and tradition that stretches far beyond Noguchi's practice, since the stone has been mined in Japan for centuries.

Within this web of art historic influence, Wonmin does not like to work within too many rules, nor overthink his practice. He is led by the shape of each stone, which in turn shapes the steel components. Fulfilling the potential of his materials is his main focus, keeping the design as effective yet minimal as possible.

ABOUT WONMIN PARK

Wonmin Park was born in Seoul, South Korea in 1982. He graduated from the Design Academy Eindhoven, Netherlands, in 2011. Soon after graduating, he set up his own production facility in Rotterdam and a creative studio in Paris, where he lives and works.

Even though his practice is very physical, bordering on engineering levels of precision, his inspiration comes from modern and contemporary art as well as the natural world. His work is minimalist, each piece a succinct artistic statement. Where Wonmin was once only interested in the material process, pushing the boundaries of his work, now he has learned so much about art history that he feels intrinsically caught up in it. Wonmin's ultimate principle is that his work speaks for itself, distancing itself from the creator. He envisions a distinction between the artist and the art, giving the work autonomy. Wonmin's designs are considered both a practical commodity and fine art. His furniture acts like sculpture, in that it demands to be looked at and visually appreciated.

Wonmin is also in the middle of studying architecture at RCA, and in the future would like to take on larger scale, architectural projects.

ABOUT CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY

From Functional Art to Collectible Design, today Carpenters Workshop Gallery produces and exhibits functional sculptures by international rising and established artists or designers going outside their traditional territories of expression. Actively involved in the research and production of limited edition works, the gallery's choices are guided by seeking an emotional, artistic and historical relevance and breaking boundaries between art and design.

The gallery relies on the partnership of childhood friends, Julien Lombrail and Loic le Gaillard. They first opened a space in London's Chelsea in 2006 in a former carpenter's workshop; they now operate four galleries globally in London, Paris, New York, and more recently in San Francisco. In 2015, the gallery opened The Workshop in Roissy, a unique 8,000 square meters space dedicated to artistic research bringing together the elite of artisans. Today, Carpenters Workshop Gallery is recognised as a leading gallery for contemporary collectible design.

Address: Carpenters Workshop Gallery, 4 Albemarle St, Mayfair, London W1S 4GA4

Opening hours: Monday – Saturday, 10 AM – 6 PM

Website: www.carpentersworkshopgallery.com

Instagram: @carpentersworkshopgallery



WONMIN PARK
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COURTESY CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY

IMAGES AVAILABLE FOR PRESS
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EXHIBITION FROM 16TH SEPTEMBER – 23RD DECEMBER 2021

LONDON | CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY

4 ALBEMARLE STREET

PARIS 54 RUE DE LA VERRERIE / 75004
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