



# THE MAKERS MARKET



## THE MAKERS' MARKET AT THE ROYAL EXCHANGE

LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL, SEPTEMBER 2021



The Royal Exchange, the beautiful, historic building at the heart of the City and home to some of the world's most coveted luxury brands, is celebrating its 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary throughout 2021.

This September, for London Design Festival and in celebration of the building's milestone anniversary, The Royal Exchange will host *The Makers' Market*, a platform for design-led brands and makers to exhibit and sell unique, handcrafted products in a specially created pop-up space on the mezzanine level inside the grand courtyard of the landmark building.

Throughout its extraordinary history, The Royal Exchange has seen many different uses since it was founded in 1566 by merchant Sir Thomas Gresham and officially opened on 23 January 1571 by Queen Elizabeth I, who awarded the building its royal title and a licence to sell alcohol and valuable goods. Overnight, the shops developed a cachet by association with royalty and there was a clamour for units and The Royal Exchange became a fashionable destination for its apothecaries, booksellers, printers, grocers, barber/surgeons, leather-sellers, goldsmiths, vintners, glass-sellers and milliners (which in Gresham's era also sold 'mousetraps, birdcages,

lanthorns [lanterns], trumps [mouth harps] and shoeing-horns'. Two milliners had the equivalent of a Royal Warrant to supply the Queen, adding to the allure of this proto-shopping mall. Soon there were more than 180 units on the Pawn (the upper storeys), mostly just 1.5 metres (5ft) wide by 2.3 meters deep (7.5ft), bringing in a healthy income.

Taking inspiration from its history as one of the first specialist commercial centres in the world, ***The Makers' Market at The Royal Exchange*** will display new, unique work from a wide range of creative disciplines. All the products will be handmade and handcrafted in the UK, using craftsmanship techniques and classical materials including textiles, leather, ceramic and wood, many of which will be used in new and innovative ways. This is in reference to the original merchants and craftspeople who have traded at The Royal Exchange throughout its history.

All products will be available to purchase from The Royal Exchange during London Design Festival.

### **The Makers' Market at The Royal Exchange**

London Design Festival

Monday 20th September – Friday 24th September 2021, 10.30 – 18.00

For more information visit:

<https://www.londondesignfestival.com/event/makers-market-royal-exchange>

### **The Royal Exchange 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Throughout 2021, The Royal Exchange is celebrating its 450th anniversary and the vibrant history of one of London's most iconic buildings, along with exploring its vision for the future. As well as The Makers' Market, The Royal Exchange website reveals the unique history, heritage and iconography of this storied building and the luxury brands that live within it. With creativity, philanthropy and thought leadership, The Royal Exchange community is helping to reflect the change that is taking place in the City with regards to diversity, purpose and equality.

Sign up to The Royal Exchange newsletter or follow @theroyalexchange on Instagram to keep up to date with all the latest activities at The Royal Exchange.

-ENDS-

For further information, high res imagery, story opportunities and profile requests, please contact:

### **The Design Collective**

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### **About The Royal Exchange**

One of London's most iconic landmarks, The Royal Exchange houses a portfolio of leading international luxury brands including: Aspinall of London, Boodles, Bremont, Church's, Crockett & Jones, Cutter & Squidge, Fortnum & Mason, Georg Jensen, Grind, Hermès, Jo Malone London, Ladurée, Leica, Montblanc, Omega, Pretty Ballerinas, Royal Exchange Jewellers, Sagebrown, Searle and Co Jewellers, Sirplus, Smythson, Tateossian, Tiffany & Co, Tom Davies, Vashi, Watches of Switzerland, and Watchfinder & Co.

Officially opened by HRH Queen Elizabeth I in 1571, The Royal Exchange was the brainchild of renowned merchant Thomas Gresham. It soon became a centre for the capital's commerce, bringing together both brokers and merchants. Trading continued for the next four centuries, despite being interrupted by fires, war and construction work, before coming to a halt in 1991. Then in 2001, an extensive redevelopment by architects Aukett Fitzroy Robinson transformed The

Royal Exchange courtyard, reviving its trading legacy by giving it a new role housing the world's most desired retailers and placing it, once again, in the thriving centre of commerce.

Traditionally, the steps of the Royal Exchange are the place where certain royal proclamations are read out by either a herald or a crier.

For more information about The Royal Exchange visit: [www.theroyalexchange.co.uk](http://www.theroyalexchange.co.uk)

### **About Oxford Properties Group**

Oxford Properties Group is one of the world's premier real estate investment, development and management companies. Established in 1960, Oxford manages over C\$45 billion of real estate assets on behalf of its co-owners and investment partners, with a global portfolio spanning over 60 million square feet. We have regional head offices in Toronto, New York, London, Luxembourg and Singapore, each with investment, development and management professionals, in addition to local teams in each city in which we operate. Oxford has approximately C\$9.6 billion / £5.4 billion of assets under management in Europe, with a focus on core office, high street retail and build-to-rent assets in Central London, Paris and Berlin. Oxford is the global real estate arm of OMERS, the defined benefit pension plan for Ontario's municipal employees.

The Royal Exchange is home to a special collection of contemporary luxury brands, and is where the City converges to meet, eat and shop. The Royal Exchange is owned by Oxford Properties Group, one of the world's premier real estate investment, development and management companies.

For more information about our hands-on approach to real estate, visit [www.oxfordproperties.com](http://www.oxfordproperties.com)