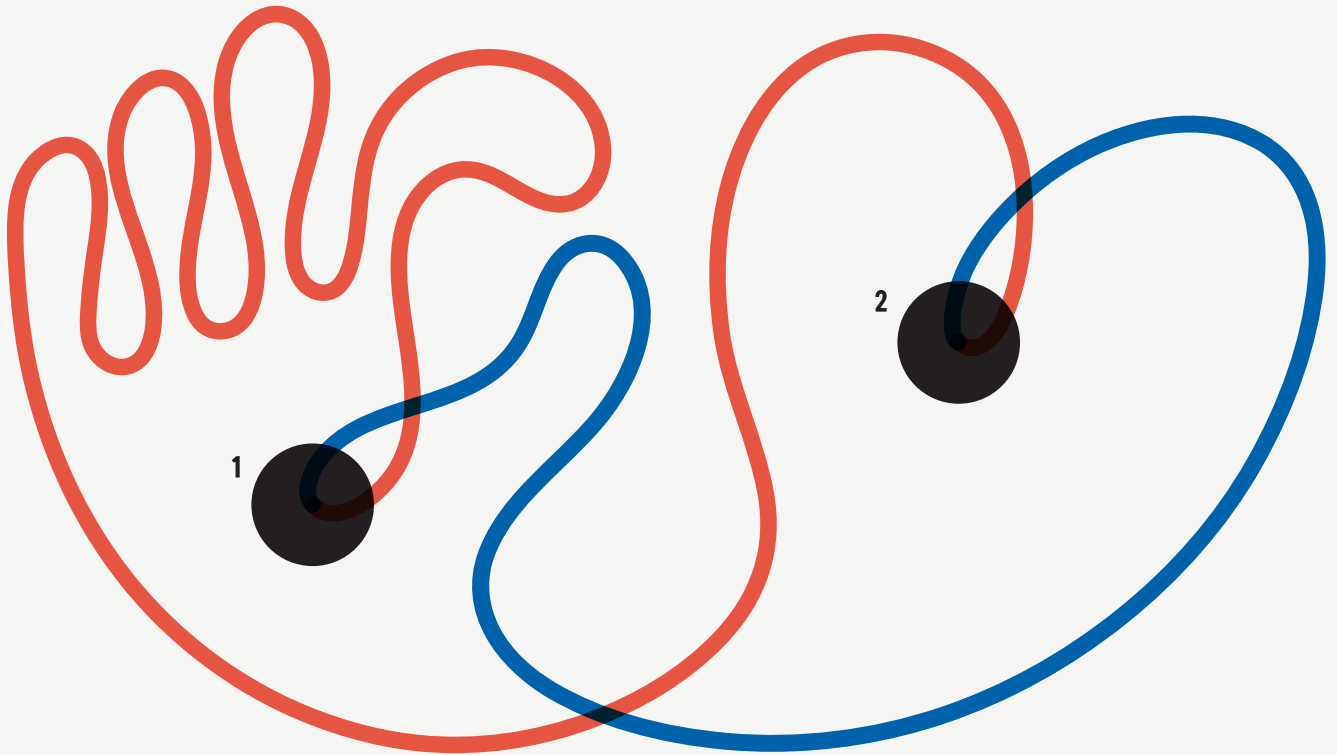


Exhibition	<i>Making Sense: Designing in London</i>
Location	twentytwentyone, 18c River Street London EC1R 1XN
Date	17th – 21st September 2025
Private View	Tuesday 16th September 2025



¹ MAKING ² SENSE

As part of the London Design festival 2025 twentytwentyone and Mentsen present ***Making Sense: Designing in London*** showcasing the work of six design studios, each driven by a firm focus on material, process, and utility. Navigating the space between handmade and industrial production, exploring the complexities and nuances of designing, making and running a design studio in London.

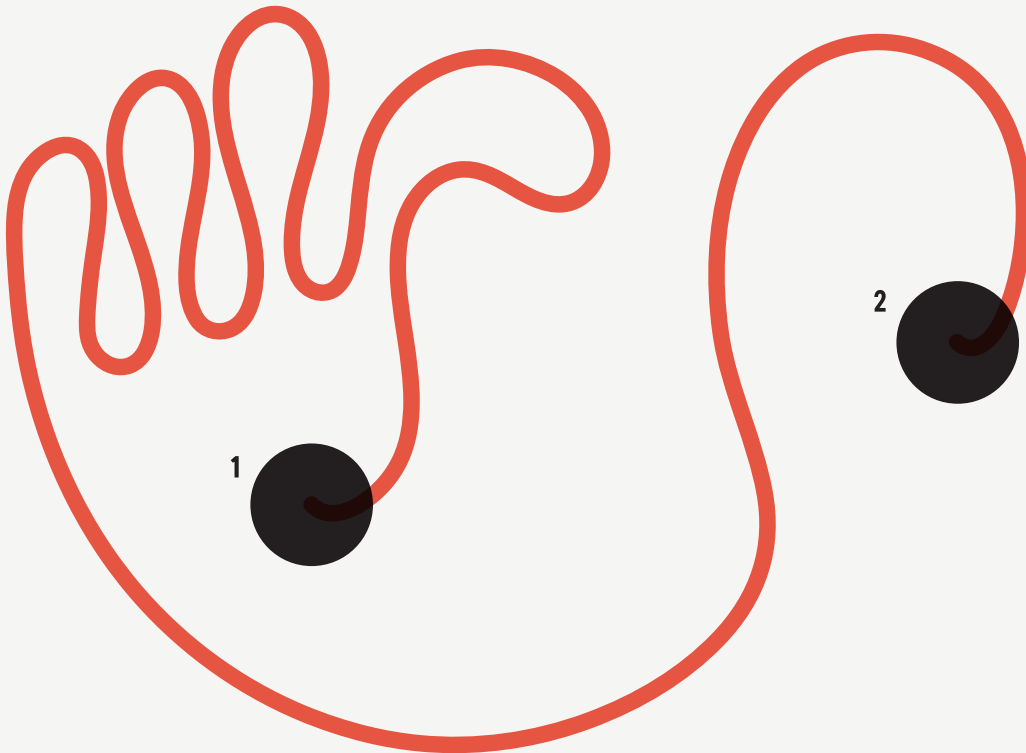
Curated by Mentsen and twentytwentyone, the exhibition brings together for the first time the works of **Elliott Denny, Jones Neville, Michael Marriott, Ian McIntyre, Mentsen and Eleanor Pritchard**, offering a unique collective perspective. Spotlighting pieces that may at first appear unassuming but there's more to appreciate the longer you look at them. Could this potentially be the key to longevity of an object?

There will also be a library selected by **Jasper Morrison** to accompany the exhibition.

The show takes its name from the idiom 'makes sense'. The two words reflect how each designer rationalises their objects, considering culture, economy and environment, as well as sense through the making process, which provides an intuitive understanding of function, form and materiality.

The exhibition is structured as a series of interconnected areas of living, working and learning in which to reflect. *Making Sense* encourages a cross-pollination of ideas and aesthetics, creating a dialogue between the works of the different studios. The exhibition is accompanied by a limited-edition publication including a round table discussion between the contributors, and a library selected by Jasper Morrison.

Making Sense will showcase a wider selection of each designer's work, including some new and recent designs developed for the exhibition. Alongside self-produced pieces, there will be manufactured items by brands, highlighting the design approaches at various scales of production.



¹ MAKING ² SENSE

Among the exhibits are ceramic architectural fittings by Elliott Denny, including extruded floor tiles and door handles. These are a direct result of experiments from his recent design residency at the **Architectural Association**.

Ian McIntyre will present handmade ceramic jars and tableware with unique decorative glazes created and applied in his Hackney studio, contrasting his monochromatic work for design brands **Another Country** and **Monoware**.

Michael Marriott's new modular shelving system for charity and social enterprise, **Glasgow Wood**, constructed in reclaimed and repurposed timber, will form part of the display alongside self-produced pieces and his Croquet shelving for **VG&P**.

Studio-produced Douglas fir stools by Jones Neville were designed for the recently opened **E5 Bakehouse** at the V&A Storehouse, Stratford, making it a good example of independent local businesses working with an established institution.

Also in the exhibition, their 4-meter-long art shelving produced for **The Wrong Shop** will house photography by Valeia Armeni from her visits to each designer's studio.

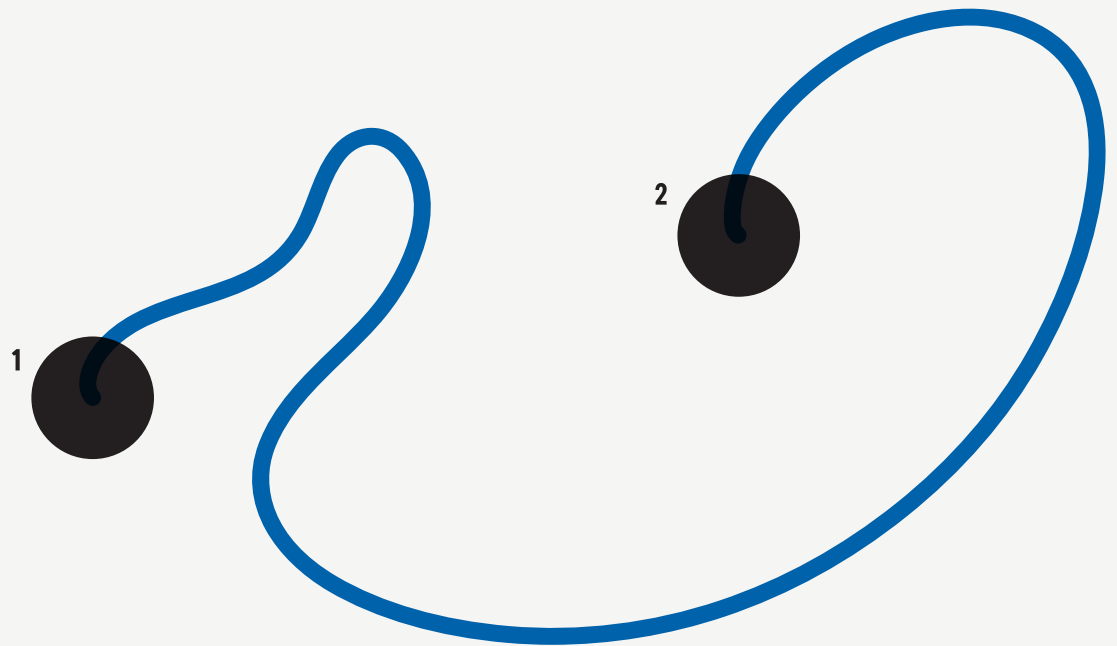
Eleanor Pritchard will preview her new collaboration with Japanese company **METROCS** — a rug crafted from hemp and wood, alongside her self-produced UK-made collection of wool blankets and cushions.

Mentsen's special edition Genie lounge chair celebrates a story of London-made. Created in collaboration by Walthamstow neighbours—furniture manufacturer **VG&P** and renowned craft denim maker **Blackhorse Lane Atelier**—this project stands as a compelling testament to the power of local craftsmanship. It's an encouraging example of how skills can be united to produce high-quality, commercially viable products in London.

Other Mentsen designs from **Zilio A&C** and British company **Hand & Eye** complete the display.

Visitors will be welcome to pause, read and interact with the designs during the exhibition.

Many of the exhibits will be available to purchase in-store and online via twentytwentyone.com.



¹ MAKING ² SENSE

“I started to notice that successful objects, that is, objects which are good to live with, seemed to share certain characteristics. They were never the result of aesthetic decisions alone, nor were they purely functional. They always balanced these two extremes with the additional consideration of the appropriateness of materials and their combination, of the human experience of using and living with the object, of the object’s effect on its surroundings and of the communication of its purpose.”

Jasper Morrison, From *Everything but the Walls*

“Rightness is quite a tricky thing to put your finger on though? It’s something which is usually felt, rather than understood. It is something that might grow to be understood though, by relentlessly looking hard at objects, turning or rolling them over and taking them to pieces in reality, or in the mind... objects that last longest are typically the ones with higher degrees of rightness in them, so we need to try to understand what makes things right, so that we can do less wrong.”

Michael Marriott, *Rightness*

Mentsen on the designers

London has a rich pool of designers and makers, but there seems to be a tendency to categorise and specialise in a rather narrow sense, and designers who design for industry as well as make their own work in workshops seem few and far between. We have selected five studios that we felt resonated with their designs and the ways they work.

Michael Marriott's logical, unpretentious approach to construction can't fail to evoke a smile, and at the same time shows his enduring curiosity and tenacity in the industry to bridge materials and processes, and an exceptional eye for beauty in humble, overlooked objects. He has had a strong influence on many of us over the years.

Ian McIntyre is one of a few designers who works across unique studio output to industrial-scale production. With a keen understanding of archetypes and typologies, he finesse familiar yet contemporary forms, paying particular attention to the surface qualities inherent in clay and its production process.

Eleanor Pritchard is a weaver who designs and produces textile products for her own namesake brand as well as for companies in the arts and interior sector. Her recent blanket collection working with a Lancashire based third-generation mill, shows not only her knowledge of the process and material, but her ability to build a relationship with the mill and challenge their industrial output to achieve a unique result of her own.

Jones Neville's portfolio varies greatly in scale from commercial interiors to a flat pack stool designed for Ikea, but always with an unmistakable, constructivist approach to the subject. They scrutinise objects, take them apart and construct with intuitive warmth that give their objects a unique new clarity.

Elliott Denny is the most industrially minded studio ceramicist we know in London. His interest in historical and modern industrial production techniques manifest in all of his output combining self made devices and digital machines with more traditional handwork. His approach to modularity using ceramic put him in a unique standing within the studio ceramic scene.

As long-time admirers of his designs as well as being fans of his publications, we approached Jasper Morrison to make a concise selection of books for the library. He seems to have an exceptional and unique understanding of archetypes and object typologies that underpin our lived environment that could teach us a way of "looking".

twentytwentyone will host a private view on Tuesday 16th September at 6pm and open daily from 10am - 5pm until Sunday 21st September 2025, at twentytwentyone, 18c River Street, London, EC1R 1XN.

Notes for Editors

Mentsen

Mentsen is a partnership between Japanese designers Yasuyuki Sakurai and Risa Sano, a London-based practice working between craft and industrial design. Their studio name, Japanese for 'lines and surfaces', references work in different mediums and scales, from furniture and product design to one-off handmade objects.

Mentsen seeks a balance of efficiency and elegance in their designs with a hint of humour. Alongside projects for commercial and cultural clients, the pair produce bespoke pieces in their workshop and collaborate with architects and interior designers on larger projects.

They have previously collaborated with twentytwentyone, in 2022 and 2024 on installations offering unique kinetic sculptures made of studio offcuts and limited-edition print works.

mentsen.co.uk
@mentsen

twentytwentyone

Founded in 1996, twentytwentyone celebrates outstanding 20th and 21st-century design from its shop at 274-275 Upper Street Islington, and showroom at 18c River Street, Clerkenwell. It provides design enthusiasts with a curated selection of furniture, lighting and accessories ranging from modernist classics alongside established and emerging contemporary and progressive design.

Through twentytwentyone Contracts, the company also provides a dedicated service to architects and designers to specify exemplary furniture and lighting for hospitality, residential, office and institutional projects. Interiors furnished by twentytwentyone can be found at the Barbican, Tate Modern, the V&A Dundee, and numerous hotels and members' clubs around the world.

twentytwentyone produces its own range of furniture and lighting by historic and contemporary designers, including designs by Barber Osgerby, Robin Day and William Plunkett. The company is also committed to a programme of exhibitions.

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