

# Crockery

MAX LAMB & 1882 LTD.

11 - 30 September 2025

Gallery FUMI is pleased to present Crockery: an exhibition of new works by designer Max Lamb in collaboration with 1882 Ltd., a contemporary ceramics factory based in Stoke-on-Trent, opening on 11 September 2025. The works are crafted using slip-cast earthenware from plaster models meticulously carved by hand. An embodiment of the innovative spirit of both Lamb and 1882 Ltd., this series challenges the conventional perception of ceramics as delicate and unsuitable for functional design.



In Crockery Max Lamb and 1882 Ltd. reevaluate our relationship to ceramic. Lamb's mission has always been to experiment with every material. "Ceramic, often perceived as fragile and untouchable, intrigued me - especially because ceramic furniture is so rare. I wanted to explore its potential, not just as a sculptural medium but as a material capable of supporting the human form."

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Challenging material associations has been at the heart of Lamb's development as a designer, and in this new body of work, history comes together with innovation to challenge the perceptual and embodied relationships we have towards ceramic.

The process begins with the heritage technique of slip-casting, traditionally reliant on a three-dimensional master model to produce a mould. However, for the Crockery series, this step is uniquely bypassed. Max Lamb serves as both designer and model-maker, using the tools of a stone mason to chip and carve solid blocks of plaster by hand. Each work emerges organically, shaped through the act of making itself - a method Lamb previously employed in his celebrated Crockery series of tableware.

Exhibited will be two designs of chair and two designs of stool, with each product taking weeks to make with all 23 potters at 1882 Ltd. involved in a meticulous process with the possibility for disaster at every stage. From filling the mould, tipping the mould, releasing the mould and then sticking up the chair, to the 3 week drying process and 36 hour firing cycle at 1140 degrees, the margins for error are as slim as they are for perfection. "Ceramic is unpredictable," says Emily Johnson, founder of 1882 Ltd. "It shrinks, sags, and transforms during firing. At over 1,100°C, it behaves like molten glass. Each piece is a true collaboration between Max and our master potters, who bring centuries of combined experience to ensure these ambitious designs are realised." What emerges from the kiln is not just a product borne out of innovation, patience, and a deep devotion to craft, but the product of a dialogue intertwining the knowledge of the 1882 Ltd. potters and the experimental creativity of Max Lamb.





In the lower ground floor of the gallery, a glimpse into the process will unfold as we see a representation of the 1882 Ltd. factory in Stoke through moulds and a film demonstrating the several steps and people involved in the making process. A testament to collaboration and shared knowledge, not only do we see the final products, but gain an intimate understanding of the minds and hands that went into them.

These works represent not just chairs and stools, but a bold statement on craftsmanship and collaboration, marking a milestone in a longstanding relationship between Lamb and 1882 Ltd.



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## MAX LAMB

British designer Max Lamb creates objects that embody simplicity and directness through various tactile and responsive processes. His work reflects his belief that the process should be evident in the final product, with aesthetics emerging as a natural outcome of the making. Lamb's designs, which primarily encompass furniture but also extend to ceramic tableware and engineered marble, draw inspiration from his upbringing in Cornwall, where he honed his practical skills and problem-solving abilities. Lamb's creations have garnered recognition worldwide and are held in esteemed public institutions such as the Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, the Design Museum Gent, and the SFMOMA, among others.

## 1882 LTD.

1882 Ltd. is a design driven ceramics factory founded in 2011 by fourth and fifth generations of the Johnson Brothers family, Emily Johnson and her father Christopher Johnson. Based in Stoke-on-Trent, the historical heart of British ceramics, 1882 Ltd. is dedicated to preserving and innovating within this rich heritage, combining artisanal techniques with industrial precision.

The factory specialises in creating high-quality ceramic products using fine bone china, stoneware, or earthenware, ranging from functional tableware and lighting to artistic and sculptural pieces. Their work is defined by a balance of traditional craftsmanship and modern design, achieved by collaborating with renowned international designers and artists. Each piece is made showcasing the expertise of skilled potters.

In addition to their own collections, 1882 Ltd. has gained acclaim for bespoke commissions and partnerships, including projects with artists like Bruce McLean and brands such as Jo Malone London. This ability to adapt and innovate while honouring traditional methods has earned the factory a reputation as a leader in contemporary ceramics.

## GALLERY FUMI

Established in 2008 by Sam Pratt and Valerio Capo, the gallery focuses on high-level, conceptually, and aesthetically audacious designers and artists; each encompassing the value of craftsmanship, traditional techniques, and innovative technologies. Objects are usually handmade by the designer in a small workshop. Many use traditional techniques such as carving, glassblowing, cabinetry, lacquering, and meticulous hand assemblage.

The directors have built enduring creative relationships with institutions, interior designers, and collectors alike, and have gained a reputation for applying a very personal and original touch in their selection and curation. They marry a close understanding of the potential of their designers with a keen knowledge of the market to commission exclusive, low-volume, limited-edition works.

The gallery runs an ambitious programme of exhibitions alongside a presence at international design fairs including PAD London, Nomad, Salon Art + Design, Design Miami and FOG Design.

## IMAGES

Product images: Courtesy of Tom Wright Penguins Egg Studio for Gallery FUMI

Studio images: Courtesy of Leroy Boateng Creative direction by Fitzbrien for Gallery FUMI

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