

## Heal's Discovers alumni celebrated for London Design Festival



**This year's London Design Festival sees Heal's celebrate more than 20 years of its prestigious Heal's Discovers programme, which has been working with aspiring designers to create new and innovative products since its inception in 2004.**

The initiative has gone from strength to strength over the last 21 years, with previous designers including Sebastian Cox, Russell Pinch, and Lee Broom.

For this year's annual London Design Festival celebrations, Heal's is set to welcome members of the Discovers alumni back to its flagship Tottenham Court Road store, to showcase some of the programme's most loved pieces and success stories.

A free-to-attend panel discussion and exhibition will take place in store on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September. Hosted by interiors journalist and author Pip McCormac, the exhibition will feature a number of original pieces designed in partnership with Heal's, followed by a panel discussion with five leading designers who will give a glimpse into the processes behind some of the initiative's best-loved products.

## Russell Pinch



Russell Pinch has become one of Heal's Discovers most notable alumni, since winning the award in 2006. He has collaborated with the in-house team of designers on a number of projects, with best-selling pieces including the Wallis sofa and Yves desk.

Russell's refined aesthetic and expert craftsmanship have made him synonymous with contemporary British furniture design and a firm favourite with Heal's customers.

## Amechi Mandi



Part of the 2021 Heal's Discovers programme, Amechi explores indigenous African traditions and reimagines them with fresh, fun and exciting designs that add character to any contemporary space.

As part of his inaugural collection for Heal's, Amechi produced a range of soft furnishings and most recently launched a quilt featuring hand-embroidery and delicate beadwork, drawing inspiration from the intricate techniques of the native Kirdi people in West Africa.

## Leonhard Pfeifer



Known for his architectural approach to furniture design, Leonhard is driven by the philosophy of removing the superfluous, with a focus on highlighting honest materials and timeless forms.

One of the more recent Heal's Discovers collaborators, Leonhard was featured within the SS25 collection, with his sculptural Oleander range bringing together functional design with architectural precision.

## Kirsty Whyte



Originally working as an in-house product and design manager for Heal's, Kirsty takes a customer-centric approach to design and has created a number of best-selling products for the brand over the last decade.

Leading Heal's Discovers as a judge and mentor between 2013 - 2017, Kirsty has been closely involved in the selection, development and production of the programme's winning products. Her own designs for Heal's include the Tower modular shelving, Blythe bedroom furniture and the Pinner four-poster bed.

## Kieran Letts



Specialising in handcrafted ceramics and accessories, Kieran's work with Heal's highlighted the importance of artisanal skills in contemporary design, reflecting the brand's heritage of supporting skilled craftsmanship.

Kieran draws upon found objects and coastal forms as a basis for his work, as reflected in his coastal mirrors, which were launched as part of the 2021 Heal's Discovers programme.

The exhibition and panel discussion will be hosted by Pip Rich and is taking place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 6 - 8pm at the Heal's store on Tottenham Court Road. The event is free to attend, but guests need to register via [www.heals.com/collections/events](http://www.heals.com/collections/events).

**ENDS**

### **Press enquiries**

Please contact Jasmine Caine, Ely Price or Lauren Hagan via [heals@rewiredpr.com](mailto:heals@rewiredpr.com).

### **Notes to editors**

### **About Heals:**

**WHERE  
DESIGN  
LIVES.**

Heal's has been designing, making, and selling quality furniture for more than two centuries. Starting out as a mattress maker in 1810 and later embracing the ideals of the Arts and Crafts movement, Heal's has a long history of collaborating with prominent designers. Heal's is as passionate today as it's always been about introducing new ranges, discovering stars of the future, and pushing the boundaries of outstanding contemporary design.

**Heal's. Where Design Lives.**

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