



The Worshipful  
Company of  
Cordwainers

carréducker

## EXHIBITION: NEXT GEN SHOEMAKING TALENT

### CRAFT OF SHOEMAKING AWARD WINNERS

Step inside a world of craftsmanship at the Carréducker studio, located at Unit 1.20 Oxo Tower Wharf, as it hosts a special exhibition featuring the work of Britain's next generation of shoemakers—winners of the inaugural Craft of Shoemaking Award at this year's prestigious Cordwainers' Footwear Awards.

For the first time, visitors can get up close and personal with the winning creations of three award-winning artisans who clinched first, second, and third place in this new national competition celebrating hand skill and innovation in shoemaking. The exhibition not only displays each meticulously crafted pair of boots, but also reveals the design process, materials, and techniques that went into making them.



#### **First Prize: 'Misfits' Engineer Boots by Caleb Smyth**

The top honour was seized by Caleb Smyth, an aeronautical engineering student from Sheffield Hallam University. Caleb, who developed their skills as a blacksmith and Dr. Martens apprentice, created the bold 'Misfits' engineer-style boots—an embodiment of three years' dedication to honing

their craft. Caleb's achievement comes with an intensive 18-day specialist training prize in pattern making, closing, and shoemaking.



### **Second Prize: Red Heart Brogue Boots by Elizabeth (Lizzy) Dugmore**

Taking second place is Lizzy Dugmore, a rising star fresh from Capel Manor's footwear foundation course. Lizzy's striking red heart brogue boots stand out for their technical complexity: crafted with different right and left foot patterns, bespoke uppers, and tailored heel heights. With her personal journey inspiring her, Lizzy is committed to transforming orthopaedic footwear into a world of style and colour.



### **Third Prize: Button Boots by Zachariah (Zach) Webb**

Third place was awarded to Zach Webb of Horace Batten Bootmakers for his elegant button boots, which merge traditional and contemporary detailing. Drawing on his upbringing in rural Ireland and

Devon, Zach combines heritage techniques with modern insights, keeping the spirit of craftsmanship alive for a new generation.

## **CRAFT OF SHOEMAKING AWARD EXHIBITION - Visitor Information**

### **Opening hours:**

Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> September: 11 - 5pm

Monday - Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> September: 10 - 5pm

Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> September: 11 - 5pm

**Venue:** Unit 1.20 Oxo Tower Wharf, Barge House Street, London SE1 9PH

Ends

### **EDITOR'S NOTES:**

#### **THE AWARD**

The Craft of Shoemaking Award was devised by bespoke shoemakers Carréducker for the Cordwainers Footwear Award. It celebrates the finest up-and-coming shoe making talent across the UK at a time when the craft is at risk, listed on Heritage Crafts' Red List of endangered crafts.

#### **JUDGING PANEL**

The 2025 Craft of Shoemaking Award judging panel includes: bespoke footwear specialist and speaker, Fiona Campbell, sought out for her design and pattern making expertise; Sarah Day, who has enjoyed a prolific career in footwear and is an avid champion for footwear education (Sarah taught at UAL for 20 years including as BA footwear course leader); the "last man of Northampton", Michael James, director of Spring Line lastmakers and a highly skilled last model maker and developer; and London independent bespoke shoemaker, Sebastian Tarek.

#### **SPONSORS**

With thanks to *The Leathersellers Foundation*, leather merchants *A&A Crack*, Northampton and oak bark tannery, *Bakers of Colyton* for their support with leather and material costs.

#### **8 FINALISTS**



l-r top row: Emma Treleaven - moccasins, Daniel Cope - weightlifting shoes, Jamie O'Grady - walking boots, Ross Edwin Bell - Wellington boots

l-r bottom row: Caleb Smyth - Misfits derby boots, Elizabeth Dugmore - heart boots, Richard Fitzpatrick - brogue boots, Zachariah Webb - button boots

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