

Press release: 12 September 2025

**Reading Design: Falling
15-21 September 2025**

Grymsdyke Farm announces further details of new works to be exhibited at LDF25, by students in collaboration with leading practitioners: Maurizio Altieri, Marco Campardo, FOS, Guan Lee, Luca Lo Pinto, Soft Baroque and Lorenzo Vitturi.

Reading Design is an experimental summer school held each year at Grymsdyke Farm, a renowned space for design and making in the Buckinghamshire countryside. Over four weeks, invited practitioners work alongside students in an intensive programme of workshops, discussions and shared living.

The emphasis is on learning through doing: experimenting with processes, testing materials and working with what already exists. Inspired by the action poems of Fluxus artist Mieko Shiomi (b. 1938), the 2025 edition asked: What do we notice when we fall? Each workshop responded to this theme in its own way, opening space for uncertainty, chance and collaboration.

Workshop 1

Vn0_works (Maurizio Altieri and Luca Lo Pinto)

Vn0_works brought together Luca Lo Pinto and Maurizio Altieri with students at Grymsdyke Farm. Responding to the theme Falling, they treated it as both method and metaphor, embracing uncertainty, release, transformation and the continuous line. Using oak bark tanned leather, students experimented with moulding, carving and folding to create unstable, asymmetrical forms that meditated on life's beginnings and ends. Digital scanning and reproduction extended the enquiry, not to replace craft but to open new directions.

Workshop 2

Marco Campardo and Lorenzo Vitturi

This workshop explored gravity as an active force in making. Lorenzo Vitturi guided students to shape clay forms through falling and impact, later cast in glass using raw Murano glass (Cotisso). Marco Campardo led aluminium sand-casting with soft foam, where the sand itself defined the final form. Their processes converged in a single sculpture where glass and aluminium supported one another, embodying tension, unpredictability and collaboration between materials.

Workshop 3

Guan Lee and FOS

Kink Society was created by FOS, Guan Lee and the student cohort. Working with found objects, participants began by making chairs, discovering how discarded materials could be reanimated into new forms. These improvised pieces shaped not

only use but also social interaction, culminating in a farm party choreographed through objects, spaces and gatherings. Kink Society celebrates the odd, the eccentric and the inventive possibilities of things brought together.

Workshop 4

Soft Baroque

Soft Baroque explored the theme Falling through the cultural and material resonances of pulp. Students made paper embedded with LEDs and electronics, where fibres settling in water became a metaphor for suspension and drift. This process extended into hanging and collapsing forms, objects caught between stability and disintegration. Pulp became both material and method, showing how making and collaboration can transform uncertainty into creative momentum.

List of Objects

Lower ground floor kitchen

Pulp (Soft Baroque)

Pulp 1 to 4 (2025)

boiled MDF, compressed hardboard, steel reinforcement bars, pulp

Ground floor living room

Kink Society (FOS and Guan Lee)

Chairs 1 to 4 (2025)

wood, high density foam, polycarbonate sheet, wire mesh, sheet foam

Book 1 and 2 (2025)

photographs by George Baggaley

First floor bathroom

Vn0_works (Maurizio Altieri and Luca Lo Pinto)

Iteration 1 (2015)

plaster, silicon, rattan, wood, leather

Iteration 2 (2025)

plaster, silicon, 3D printed PLA, steel reinforcement bars, leather

Second floor back room

Vn0_works (Maurizio Altieri and Luca Lo Pinto)

Sarcophagus (2025)

cardboard, lacquer paper, tape

Second floor front room

Gravity (Marco Campardo and Lorenzo Vitturi)

Gravity 1 to 6 (2025)

venetian raw glass (Cotisso), aluminium

Acknowledgements

2025 Participants

Students : Karolina Adamiec; Joseph Bonetti; Andia Chan; Shouhui Chen; Luna Copponex; Guandong Diao; Priyanshi Dhanrajbhai Jain; Emily Foster; Eliza Friend; Joe Horgan; Eddie Huddart; Zarin Islam; Richard Kirk; Murat Kurul; Mingxuan Ma; Curro Guillen Martinez; Seb Masters; Margaux Richler, and Tianqin Yang.

Material Specialists : Martin Hanson; Jessie Lee; Nigel Tucker.

Pianist and Composer : Marina Chan

Quote

Guan Lee, Founding Director of Grymsdyke Farm, said:

'We established Reading Design as a unique time and space for designers and students who share our passion for making and materials, to live and work together. Everyone was committed to the idea of designing and making with no fixed outcomes in mind, which was liberating and led to an extraordinary body of new work.'

LDF 2025 Events

Opening reception (invitation only), 7pm Saturday 13 September

Press Breakfast, including a talk and tour, 8.30-10.30am Monday 15 September

VIP/press breakfasts by appointment, 9-10.30am 16-19 September

Visit <https://www.grymsdykefarm.com/>

For further information, interviews and images, contact press@grymsdykefarm.com

Information

Reading Design: Falling is at London House, 29 Molyneux Street, London W1H 5HW

The exhibition will be open to the public from 2pm to 7pm from 15-21 September, and by appointment. To arrange a visit outside of these hours, write to rsvp@grymsdykefarm.com

About Grymsdyke Farm

Grymsdyke Farm is a shared space for design experimentation located just outside London. Over the past 20 years the Farm has repurposed its agricultural buildings to create maker spaces and communal facilities where traditional craftsmanship blends with modern digital design. We host workshops with design studios and architectural practices, and support university design and architecture programmes.

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About London House

London House is a satellite location for Grymsdyke Farm, situated in Marylebone in central London. Here we host events and exhibitions that celebrate design and architecture, often in partnership with cultural and educational organisations.

About Reading Design

Reading Design is design school as it could be: exploring design, making, materials and ideas, while emphasising creative freedom alongside tuition by leading designers and makers. Reading Design 2025 took place at Grymsdyke Farm over four weeks during July, and welcomed students with no previous experience.

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