



Christopher Farr

LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL 2026



MAX RADFORD GALLERY



**PROGRESSIVE PERMANENCE
LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 2026**

Independent gallerist Max Radford joins Christopher Farr, expert producers of custom handmade rugs, to present archival works alongside emerging artists and designers for London Design Festival and Shoreditch Design Week 2026. With a shared cross-generational sensibility, the collaboration occupies the intersection of fine art, craft and design - exploring the tension between material intelligence and progressive thinking.

The installation will be located at the Christopher Farr Shoreditch Studio, where the in-house design team develop custom rugs, in the heart of Spitalfields.

Born of mutual respect and a shared interest in assembling exceptional pieces that transcend time, Christopher Farr opened their portfolio to Max Radford to cast his curatorial eye. Both started out in different eras, yet share roots in London and are united in their background in antiques and interest in commissioning emerging artists and designers. Their collective belief is to re-define where fine art meets function and where design provides self-expression as well as demands an emotional response.

For this collaboration, Progressive Permanence partners diverse materiality and forms, limited edition and collectible pieces, relevant to those starting to build their own collection or simply seeking an individualistic point of difference. The presentation includes: 'Door Rug 4031', 1996 from English painter and sculptor Gary Hume, paired with natural stone 'Graywacke OffCut Chair', 2024, from German artist and furniture designer Carsten in der Elst. The 'Door Rug 4031' is developed from Hume's celebrated Door Paintings, a series of institutional hospital doors, demonstrating his modernist abstraction which finds beauty in the mundane, and purposeful use of colour; and in Der Elst's 'Graywacke OffCut Chair', the artist-designer known for his zero-waste and material-led approach, from his most renowned 'Graywacke Series', created from carefully selected discards of rugged 'Graywacke' sandstone, largely kept in their raw state.

Further pairings are the 'XR Mesh 2-seater (yellow)', 2025, by contemporary British-born, Paris-based contemporary artist LS Gomma in PU rubber, metal mesh and stainless steel juxtaposed by the Berber quality rug of the pioneering French-American artist Louise Bourgeois, 'Has The Day Invaded The Night? Has the Night Invaded The Day?', 2009. Bourgeois' rug, produced with the artist herself, the year before her death, derives from her incessant diary writing, which she employed as an on-going dialogue with herself and therapeutic tool, using insomnia to fuel her often psychologically inspired creative output. LS Gomma's work centres on his hybrid use of materials, notably the combination of polyurethane rubber and industrial metal mesh, often reimagining functional pieces further developed into artefacts.

Now over 35 years ago, Christopher Farr started out in the 1990s, an era fuelled by post-industrial reinvention, low-fi and DIY attitude to artistic output, when creatives could more easily acquire disused buildings as studios, or business premises in undeveloped parts of the capital. For Radford, this period of invention seemed distant, and he sought out the creative renegades and individuals who embraced this need for material exploration and original sculptural production. Progressive Permanence is a meeting of this different experience, brought together by a shared desire to provide a platform for original thinkers and progressive pieces, which are not derivative, but classics of their era and over time.

christopherfarr.com

MAX RADFORD GALLERY

MAX RADFORD GALLERY AT CHRISTOPHER FARR SPITALFIELDS
18 Calvin Street, E1 6HF

TUES 15TH - FRI 18TH SEPTEMBER 2026: 10:00 - 18:00

TUES 15TH: Shoreditch Late Night until 21:00

17:00 Drinks

17:30 In Conversation: Max Radford, Matthew Bourne, co-founder of Christopher Farr,
chaired by Hugo MacDonald, design critic and founder of Bard

21:00 Drinks end

SAT 19TH & SUN 20TH: 11:00 - 17:00

ABOUT CHRISTOPHER FARR

Christopher Farr are expert producers of custom rugs and limited edition artworks. Almost 40 years ago, Christopher Farr set out to protect and preserve the world's weaving traditions, while exploring the creative possibilities of design. Since then, they have maintained a dedication to quality and an uncompromising pursuit of beauty that has helped revolutionise rug design.

With in-depth knowledge of material and wool blends, production techniques and finishing, and an extensive design library, their technical skill is unrivalled, producing rugs for private residential, leading hotels, global retail brands, work spaces and international art collections. Every stage of the production process is independently audited by their fair trade partner Label STEP.

W: christopherfarr.com

IG: @christopherfarrdesign

ABOUT MAX RADFORD GALLERY

Max Radford founded the eponymous Max Radford Gallery in 2020, since then they have had a number of successful exhibitions including shows in New York, Brussels, Barcelona, Venice as well as regular programming in London. The Gallery has a UK-centric eye and seeks to platform work sitting in the grey areas between Design & Fine Art in all its guises.

Max Radford studied Fine Art before entering the world of Interiors. The studio was founded in 2021, and since then has completed several commercial, residential & set design projects. The Studio is now working across projects in the USA, Europe as well as several commercial and residential projects in London.

W: maxradfordgallery.com

IG: @maxradfordgallery

For more information or images:

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maxradfordgallery.com



Door Rug 4031
1996
Gary Hume
Hand knotted
Handspun wool
2.02m x 2.95m
Christopher Farr
CUSTOM OPTIONS

Graywacke OffCut Chair
2024
Carsten in der Elst
sandstone discards
Max Radford Gallery

Photo by Edward Rollitt

Has The Day Invaded The
Night? Has the Night Invaded
The Day?
2009
Louise Bourgeois
Hand knotted
Handspun wool
2m x 3m
A LIMITED EDITION

XR Mesh 2-seater (yellow)
2025
LS Gomma
PU rubber, metal mesh,
stainless steel
Max Radford Gallery

Photo by Edward Rollitt



