

Wallpaper*

AUGUST 2019

*THE STUFF THAT REFINES YOU

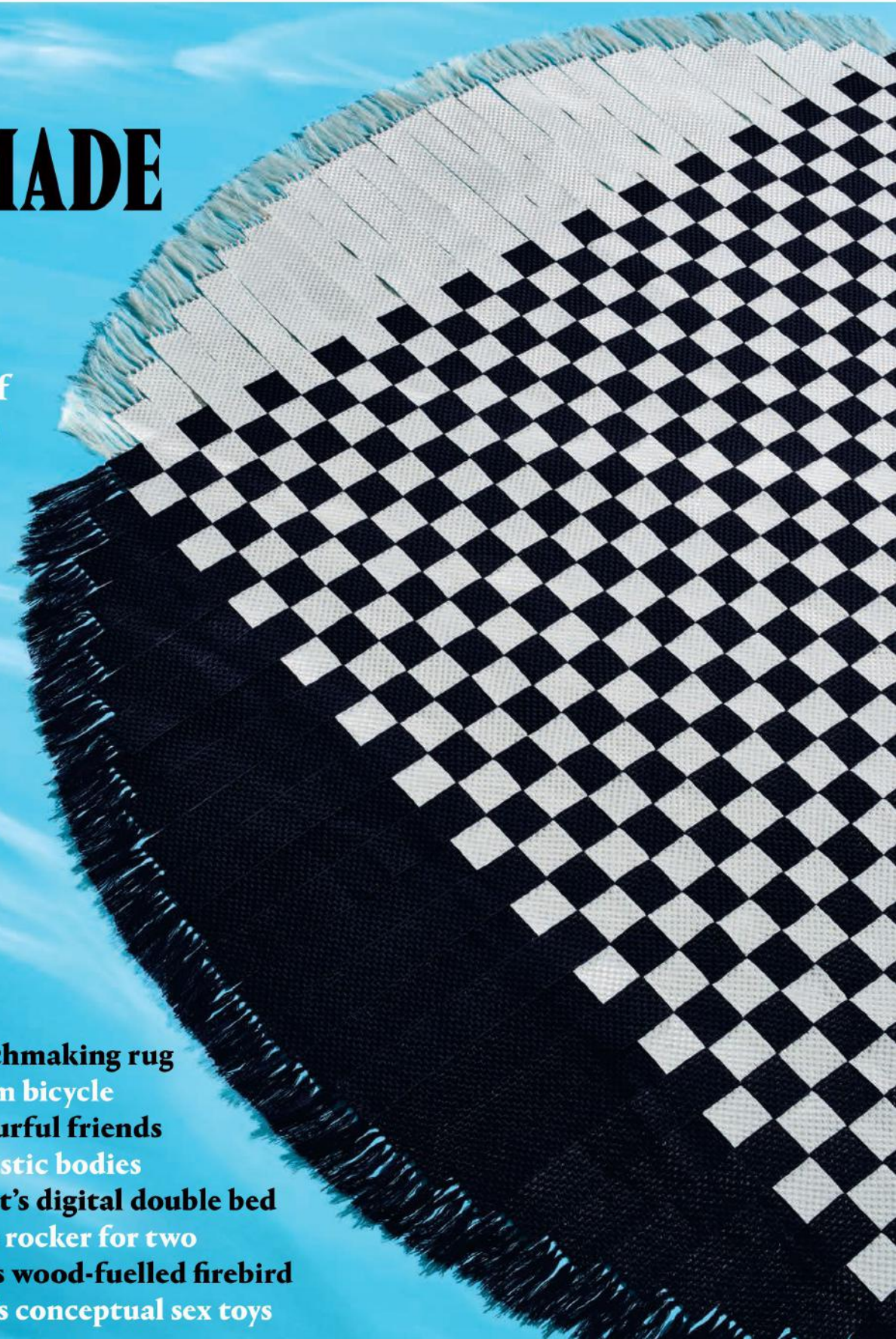
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THE HANDMADE ISSUE

Feel the love in
our tenth year of
one-off wonders

Wieki Somers' matchmaking rug
Paul Smith's tandem bicycle
Jaime Hayon's colourful friends
Marine Julié's fantastic bodies
Elmgreen & Dragset's digital double bed
Owen Bullett's love rocker for two
Farshad Farzankia's wood-fuelled firebird
Douglas Coupland's conceptual sex toys



EDITOR'S LETTER



With Love



Newsstand cover

Photography:
Leon Chew

'Joints' woven rug, by Studio Wieki Somers and Passamaneria Italiana. See our Handmade exhibition story, from page 153

Paper trail

Indulging our passion for print and paper, The Handmade Issue is delivered in four superlative stocks courtesy of Finnish producer UPM:
UPM Star 100gsm
UPM Cote Matt 70gsm
UPM Fine 150gsm
UPM EcoPrime 55gsm



Welcome to Handmade X: With Love, our tenth edition of Wallpaper* Handmade. And what a decade it has been... Debuting in 2010 at the Brioni palazzo in the chicest part of Milan, the exhibition was groundbreaking in its celebration of craft and collaboration, and incredibly, here we are, ten years, 587 projects, and 1,085 collaborators later!

Wallpaper* Handmade has curated and paired some of the finest creative talents and rising stars with the most outstanding makers and manufacturers. Over the years we've worked with the likes of Peter Saville, Wim Crouwel, Konstantin Grcic, Naoto Fukasawa, Sou Fujimoto, Monika Sprüth, Snarkitecture, Patricia Urquiola, Michael Anastassiades and Barber & Osgerby. We've made boats, tents, rubbish bins, coffins, coffee, paper planes and conceptual playgrounds and so much more, with Dinesen, Hermès, Minotti, Comme des Garçons, Jaguar, Poltrona Frau, Kvadrat, E15, Bottega Veneta, Laufen, Driade, Hieronymus, Stellar Works, Bell & Ross, Louis Vuitton... too many collaborators to mention and thank for being truly open to this ambitious project.

Highlights from this year's anniversary event include Elmgreen & Dragset and Georg Jensen's cellphone slumber pod and Chan + Eayrs, Sebastian Cox and American Hardwood Export Council's blushing bar

(who knew you could actually make wood 'blush?'). Jaime Hayon and Caran d'Ache have parented little pastel people, and Paul Smith and Mercian designed a bicycle made for two, while Gustavo Martini and Testi have carved a curvy love seat, and Douglas Coupland and the Architectural Association School of Architecture created conceptual sex toys.

After a decade of Handmade, it's time to step things up a gear, so next year will see the launch of Wallpaper* Re-Made 2020. As a teaser, Benjamin Hubert and his London design studio Layer have joined forces with the Chinese electric vehicle manufacturer Nio to develop a near-future prototype of a planet-loving, congestion-busting urban get-about. 'Pal' is the smartest of electric scooters and incorporates AI and machine learning as well as a range of detachable luggage accessories (see page 092).

Like Handmade, Wallpaper* Re-Made will be a space for the best and the brightest designers, architects, artists, makers and manufacturers, but it will also be opened up to scientists, technologists, trailblazers and innovators to think the impossible and re-think the possible. Together we hope to re-imagine, re-design and re-make the physical world as a smarter, more sustainable place.

Enjoy the issue!

Sarah Douglas, Editor-in-Chief

**EVERYBODY
WANTS
TO FALL
IN LOVE**

Limited-edition cover by Douglas Coupland

Invited by us to create cover artwork, novelist and artist Coupland responded with this love-themed slogan. He also contributed a Handmade project - 'Forest of Theoretical Sex Toys' - with the Architectural Association School of Architecture (AA). See Coupland's conversation with the AA's Eva Franch i Gilabert on page 112

Limited-edition covers are available to subscribers, see Wallpaper.com



THIS PAGE, FROM TOP LEFT, THE CENTREPIECE AT ARVEN'S WORKSHOP IN BERGEN; DIPPING THE SILVER BARS IN ACID TO CLEAN THEM; THE BARS WERE BENT BY HAND WITH CUSTOM TOOLS TO CREATE A PERFECT CURVE, THEN WELDED TO BRASS SUPPORTS. 'GETTING THE EXACT SAME GAP BETWEEN THE BARS WAS ESSENTIAL TO THE LOOK WE WANTED,' EXPLAINS ARVEN'S OWNER LILLI-ANNE ALVER. 'THE BARS COULD NOT BE FORCED INTO ANOTHER SHAPE AFTER THE WELDING PROCESS WAS DONE' OPPOSITE, ITALIAN DESIGNER GUGLIELMO POLETTI AT ARVEN'S WORKSHOP

Italian designer Guglielmo Poletti creates furniture from charming compositions of elemental forms. Using simple rubber, wood and steel shapes, either fastened with ropes or elegantly balanced, the Design Academy Eindhoven graduate gives new meaning to mundane objects, instilling them with grace and lightness.

Playing matchmaker, we introduced him to the refined skills of Norwegian silver manufacturer Arven. Established in 1868, originally as Theodor Olsen Silversmiths, the Bergen-based company has produced silverware by local icons such as Trygve Eriksen and Birger Saastad, as well as pieces by contemporary Norwegian designers such as Lars Beller Fjetland.

When Lilli-Anne Alver acquired the company (by now comprising three different workshops and factories, which Olsen and his heirs had incorporated over time) in 2015, she wanted to instil new life into the traditional outfit. It was a move that resonated with Poletti. 'She renamed the company Arven, "legacy" in Norwegian,' explains Poletti. 'I found it a beautiful choice, to pay tribute to the heritage of the factories.' Alver and Poletti hit it off immediately, bonding over their shared passion for design and craftsmanship, as well as seafood and winter sports.

Poletti was keen to test the potential of silver and started experimenting in his Milan studio. 'My love for metals goes hand in hand with my way of working,' he says. 'I am fascinated by the fact that by adjusting micro thicknesses and proportions, a structure can change completely. For me, this is proof that "God is in the details".' It's a vision he shares with Alver, who was keen for her workshop to push the boundaries of silverworking. 'Guglielmo approaches his work based

on a "thinking by doing" philosophy and combines this with a good deal of intuition,' she adds. 'I like that, and wanted to create a space for him without limitations.'

To kick off the project, the designer created some models by hand, letting the materials guide him. He then took these abstract, small-scale studies to Bergen, to develop the project with Alver and her team of craftsmen. One model stood out from the rest, and Alver dedicated a workshop to the project, leaving it in the hands of master silversmith Janne Moinichen Brandtzaeg, who worked closely with Poletti throughout the process. Poletti's initial steel model was recreated in silver – a transition that required clever adaptations to suit the material's different structural behaviour. Titled 'Arched', the result of their collaboration is a seemingly simple composition of silver rods held by two brass supports, suspended to create a centrepiece – or a 'conversation piece' to gather people around the table, as Poletti describes it – that is both functional and poetic in its purity of form.

'I see the pureness of the outcome as an ode to silver, a tribute to the material itself,' says Poletti. 'We spent most of the time trying to understand the material's behaviour. The shape emerged from the material itself, its geometry being a pure consequence of the structure.' The pair kept experimenting up until the moment the very last finishing touches were applied using a glass-blasting technique that gives the silver a subtle texture.

The finished product merges artisanal precision and creative intuition, a fitting synthesis of the two collaborators. 'For us, the piece has both duality and harmony,' says Alver. 'Just as love should.' * guglielmopoletti.com; arven.no

Making Of...

Talking point

'Arched' centrepiece, by Guglielmo Poletti and Arven

PHOTOGRAPHY: IVAR KVAAL WRITER: ROSA BERTOLI

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WallpaperSTORE*
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Thank you to all our contributors...

With passion and precision, ardour and audacity, our matchmade collaborators have gone to impossible lengths for the love of craft, creativity and Handmade

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