

Fels Gallery and Jan Hendzel Studio present Against The Grain for London Design Festival 2021

Fels and Jan Hendzel Studio present Against The Grain, a collaborative exhibition in Peckham's Copeland Gallery as part of this year's London Design Festival, showcasing the work of designers and studios creating beautiful objects in unexpected mediums with sustainable principles.

As part of the new Southwark South Design District, Against the Grain is a co-curated offering by the two brands who seek to celebrate some of the innovative practices and material journeys being explored in contemporary design. From raw material to finished piece, sustainably driven processes will be championed as creative decisions and experiments surrounding function and production are uniquely exhibited. The list of artists confirmed include: Attua Aparicio, Dirk van der Kooij, Hot Wire Extensions, Marco Campardo, Matthew Verdon, Oksana Bondar, Pierre Castignola, Studio ThusThat, Studio Furthermore, Stuart Haygarth, Tessa Silva and Tom Dixon.

Fels launched as an online store and gallery in November 2020 and is the brainchild of Finbar Conran and Oscar Mitchell, two friends who met at art school in Cornwall and are now based in London. They wanted to combine their experiences, interests and tastes in art and design to give emerging creatives more opportunities to reach larger audiences.

On the concept of Fels, co-founder, Finbar Conran, states: "We want to celebrate amazing artworks and designs in all their forms. Whether it's the online shop, curating an exhibition or designing interior spaces we want to find exciting new work and people we admire to create really beautiful projects that are a little bit different."

Finbar Conran and Jan Hendzel were first introduced through an interiors project in 2019. Admirers of the studio's work since then, when Fels organised their debut exhibition, Where Things Land Down, in July this year, Jan Hendzel Studio was an obvious inclusion in the line-up and the Bowater chest of drawers became a particular highlight of the show. This led to a

natural evolution in the partnership, with the two brands collaborating on a larger-scale, process-driven showcase this September.

Jan Hendzel Studio's own representation at the exhibition builds on the success of their Bowater Collection with a body of furniture pieces showcasing some of the key joinery details found throughout their bespoke works. Presenting new functional elements whilst maintaining the sculptural precision of the studio, Against The Grain offers an insight into the meticulous craftsmanship of the studio's distinctive furniture.

Jan Hendzel, founder of Jan Hendzel Studio states: "As a studio, we endeavour to use a sustainable approach to design, focusing on quality materials and unique processes that ensure longevity. It was therefore important to us to bring together like-minded designers and brands with a similar philosophy and showcase them to the wider community. Having exhibited at Fels' recent exhibition, we knew that Finbar and Oscar were the right people to collaborate with for Against The Grain, helping bring together and showcase an amazing array of talent, alongside some of our own pieces of work."

Oscar Mitchel, co-founder of Fels, adds: "This exhibition is a means for us to learn more about all the unbelievably intuitive and imaginative ways people are using process and material to reuse and reduce to help aid a problem which is surely the biggest threat to our planet."

Against the Grain takes place between 18th - 27th September at the Copeland Gallery, Unit 9I, Copeland Park, 133 Copeland Rd, London SE15 3SN. The opening dates and hours are as follows:

Wednesday 22nd September, 10am-8pm

Thursday 23rd September, 10am-7pm

Friday 24th September, 10am-7pm

Saturday 25th September, 10am - 8pm

Sunday 26th September, 11am - 4pm

For further information, please contact martha@maycommunications.co.uk / +447515169628 or Charlotte Strudwick charlotte@charlottestrudwickpr.com / +447876742192.

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Editor's Notes

About Fels

Commissioning the latest in art and design, Fels collaborates with emerging and established creatives alike to showcase and celebrate new work. In gallery spaces and online, we present eclectic editions and one-off pieces from some of the most exciting artists, designers and studios working today, with all products available exclusively through Fels.

By building a collaborative chain of varied practitioners, we introduce artists' work to wider networks of admirers, buyers and collectors to support the industry we love and the creatives we admire. In addition to our exhibitions and online shop, Fels offers professional and knowledgeable services in design, curation and coordination.

<https://www.fels.world/>

About Jan Hendzel Studio

South London-based furniture brand Jan Hendzel Studio was founded by self-taught furniture maker Jan Hendzel in 2015. The studio's diverse portfolio of work celebrates British craftsmanship and natural homegrown materials. Merging traditional joinery techniques with digital manufacturing practices allows the studio to experiment with texture and function to unique furniture pieces that lay between sculpture and furniture. Sustainability is at the heart of the practice, and their focus on quality materials, longevity and a circular approach to design, contributes to the integrity of the projects they are involved with.

Since its inception, the studio has realised ambitious projects for leading architectural practices and design studios and in 2020 launched Bowater, the studio's first collection of furniture which is made exclusively from British Timbers and demonstrates the untapped range and variety of timbers present in the UK's woodland. The collection comprises nine pieces, from a chest of drawers and sideboard to a series of desk trays and decorative sculptural objects.

<https://www.janhendzel.com/>

About Southwark South Design District

Southwark South Design District is the latest addition to the London Design Festival's roster of renowned design districts for 2021. Following the success of last year's Peckham Design Trail, the district will celebrate local design talent within the broader creative community of Southwark, South East London.

In 2020 the Peckham Design Trail was London Design Festival's largest foray south-of-the-river. This year, the newly formed district will broaden the festival's reach and accessibility even further, bringing together unique perspectives on design from one of London's most vibrant, creative and multicultural communities, long home to talented individuals and collectives with a passion and appreciation for design.

The event will take place between 18th to 26th September 2021 inclusive and will involve a programme of accessible participatory opportunities for Southwark South businesses, as well as those from the wider London districts. The participants, which will be a combination of local traders, artists, makers and volunteers will be showcasing their individual events and exhibitions in various spaces throughout the district in both public and private spaces. These businesses already residing in Southwark South, will be opening their doors to attendees during that week, many as open workshops. The individual events will all be free of charge to the visitor.

The idea is to form a cohesive and engaging trail which will start at a district marker, designed by a local upcoming designer and organised by London Design Festival. The marker will be installed in central Peckham and will be the starting point for the visitor, continuing throughout the surrounding areas.

The district will celebrate local design talent within the broader creative community, who have not been previously celebrated on a broad scale. It will inspire and encourage the larger youth community who may not have previously had the possibilities and opportunities in design presented to them. The district will promote inclusivity, particularly for low income, Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, in the way of making the subject of design and all that it can offer accessible to them, rather than continuing the idea of design being only accessible to the few. This will be through inviting individuals and groups from local schools, colleges, youth centres and community youth clubs to the district, giving them the opportunity to be curious, inspired and encouraged as well as being educated on the possibilities and opportunities in the world of design.

By showcasing the impressive breadth and scope of creative output within the areas of Peckham, Old Kent Road, Camberwell, South Bermondsey and the surrounding areas, the Southwark South Design District aims to attract not only the London design community from other areas of London that may previously not know this area to be one that includes such a rich breadth of creative talent, but to also inspire and motivate a new generation that may go on to define and eventually change the face of the industry.