BOX

Brand new body of work by Max Lamb

Gallery FUMI, London

5 October – 18 November 2023
Gallery FUMI is delighted to present a major exhibition of new works by British designer Max Lamb, entirely made of cardboard. By connecting art and anthropology to materiality and improvisation, Lamb creates pieces that embody new histories of craft and give value to a material often seen as secondary.

In his practice, London-based Lamb thrives on the realm of contemplative discovery, firmly breaking away from traditional processes and instead developing his own singular typologies that blend art, design and functionality. A childhood spent outdoors adventuring in Cornwall and working on his grandfather’s Yorkshire farm nurtured his curiosity and creative spirit as well as his ability to handle raw and industrial materials and problem solve. His proclivity for experimentation and deftness with tools and materials have galvanised his use of unconventional techniques, resulting in an array of distinct pieces that value human touch and the individual maker.

Catalysed by his interest in sustainability and intrigued by the challenge of giving scrap material primary value, Lamb sought to make use of the ever-increasing piles of cardboard accumulating in his studio. Surplus materials included unbleached cardboard tubes used to store and transport his Space-Dyed tufted rugs, surplus quality corrugated cardboard gathered over time from museum loans and various workshop projects, as well as everyday delivery boxes with varied different shapes, colours and textures. Working with or against pre-cut shapes by cutting, scoring, folding, crushing and reassembling with bolts, screws, paper gum tape and a home-made wheat-based glue (flour and water), Lamb assembles volumes of cardboard into forms, building up layers of the ubiquitous brown paper to create a structural integrity like that of rock or wood yet retaining evidence of the making. Although achieving durability whilst preserving the personality of the material proved a challenge, Lamb has successfully elevated the works from an exercise in form-building to design pieces. Transforming this ephemeral, often single-use and undervalued material into functional, beautiful and sustainable furniture.

A collaborator and friend of the gallery for over 15 years, Lamb has been firmly rooted in the nucleus of Gallery FUMI since its inception. Valerio Capo, co-founder said, ‘From the early days when we showed Max’s first works at our original gallery in Shoreditch, we’ve watched him grow alongside us. His latest project is a true testament to his talent and creativity and we feel fortunate to be a part of his artistic journey.’

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT MAX LAMB

British designer Max Lamb creates objects that embody simplicity and directness through various tactile and responsive processes. His work reflects his belief that the process should be evident in the final product, with aesthetics emerging as a natural outcome of the making. Lamb's designs, which primarily encompass furniture but also extend to ceramic tableware and engineered marble,
draw inspiration from his upbringing in Cornwall, where he honed his practical skills and problem-solving abilities. Lamb's creations have garnered recognition worldwide and are held in esteemed public institutions such as the Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, the Design Museum Gent, and the SFMOMA, among others.

ABOUT GALLERY FUMI

Established in 2008 by Sam Pratt and Valerio Capo, the gallery focuses on high-level, conceptually, and aesthetically audacious designers and artists; each encompassing the value of craftsmanship, traditional techniques, and innovative technologies. Objects are usually handmade by the designer in a small workshop. Many use traditional techniques such as carving, glassblowing, cabinetry, lacquering, and meticulous hand assemblage.

The directors have built enduring creative relationships with institutions, interior designers, and collectors alike, and have gained a reputation for applying a very personal and original touch in their selection and curation. They marry a close understanding of the potential of their designers with a keen knowledge of the market to commission exclusive, low-volume, limited-edition works.

The gallery runs an ambitious programme of exhibitions alongside a presence at international design fairs including PAD London, Nomad, Salon Art + Design, Design Miami and FOG Design.

KEY INFORMATION

Gallery FUMI
2-3 Hay Hill
London W1J 6AS, United Kingdom
+44 (0)20 7490 2366

Opening Times
Monday – Friday 10am – 6:30pm
Saturday 11am – 6pm

PRESS INFORMATION AND ENQUIRIES

Reiber PR

Bénédicte Labatut (UK/USA media)
E: benedicte@reiberpr.com
T: +44 7426 511 072

Zénaide d’Albufera (European media)
E: zenaide@reiberpr.com
T: +32 493 47 62 38