

**Karl Fritsch
&
Jack Hadley**

Arts & Crafts

4 October - 11 November 2023

FUNAKI

Creative Convergence

Arts & Crafts is a joint exhibition that brings together the distinctive world of Karl Fritsch and Jack Hadley. Considering their practices share similar guiding principles, where play is used as an instrument to subvert convention, the meeting of Fritsch and Hadley seems almost pre-destined. The duo met when they were paired up in HandShake 6, an esteemed jewellery mentorship program in Aotearoa New Zealand orchestrated by the creative minds at Makers 101, where Fritsch served as Hadley's mentor.

Fritsch titled the exhibition in reference to his and Hadley's formative training. Fritsch mastered the craft of goldsmithing at Goldschmiedeschule Pforzheim before studying under renowned jewellers Hermann Jünger and Otto Künzli at Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Munich between 1987 and 1994. Hadley has a fine arts background, holding a BFA (2012) and an MFA (2021) from Elam School of Fine Arts in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. Taking in Fritsch's panache for disruptive humour within his works, the choice of this title can also be read with irreverence. The distinction of arts and crafts is often arbitrary and both artists have developed a practice that spans mediums and forms, from contemporary jewellery to sculpture, furniture to studio pottery. Both often incorporate contradictory elements in their works, which challenge and upset societally accepted norms – of beauty, preciousness, and the very boundaries of art. Therefore, instead of division, the title refers to the coming together of seemingly disparate fields and a nod to the domestic decorative objects presented in the exhibition.

Finding one term that captures the soul of Fritsch's practice is a challenging endeavor as his works carry a rich vocabulary that defies strict categorisation. Within jewellery, Fritsch works predominately with rings where he propels his goldsmithing skills with his delicious wit, creating wearable pieces of abstractions that intrigue with their beguiling tactility. Trying on one of Fritsch's rings is not solely an act of adornment; it is a journey of exploration. Each piece contains texts and forms held within distinctive miniature landscapes. Fritsch's selection of rings for 'Arts & Crafts' conjures up images of forgotten ruins concealing glittering treasure, sparkling foliage blooming across alien terrain, and Foucaultian towers guarded by menacing weapons. Each one beckons you to study its contrasting typography and step through a portal into a

different land. Like traversing the pages of a fairy tale, the ultimate test is finding that perfect, enchanting fit.

While Fritsch is known for his jewellery, he defies artistic constraints and is constantly experimenting through collaboration and inquiry into the materials that exist around him. A few years back, captivated by a friend's screenprint of a seaweed, Fritsch began collecting kelp that washed up on the beach after a storm. As the collection amassed and started to envelop his studio, it sparked Fritsch to turn the oceanic treasures into light fixtures. They range from organic shapes encircling exposed bulbs to a curtain of kelp entangled with vintage shades reminiscent of jellyfish – a captivating dance where nature harmonises with the manufactured. In recent years, Fritsch has come to boldly install his kelp lamps alongside exhibitions of his rings. While customs regulations prohibit their inclusion in 'Arts & Crafts', it's important to acknowledge this body of work as it reflects Fritsch's consideration of how people engage with his jewellery. In designing the environment in which his rings are experienced, he compels a broader narrative that disposes of dichotomies, where beauty emerges from chaos tinged with just the right hint of monstrosity. In the context of this exhibition, it forges an immediate link to the works presented by Hadley.

In the kaleidoscopic realm of Hadley's creations, beige finds no sanctuary. Every element in his work boldly flaunts its chosen colour, vibrating with vivid intensity. Besides an electric palette, Hadley embraces clean, geometric shapes. For Hadley, making is an act of play. Thus, the process of making becomes a device to interrogate the designs of our built environment. Drawing from classical orders to children's playgrounds and the very tools used to create buildings, the simplistic aesthetic of Hadley's creations works as a counterbalance to the layers of questions he poses and explores. Hadley openly credits the Memphis Design Style as an influence, a movement driven by rebellious spirit beneath its visually striking surface. His synthetic pop creations embody this spirit, fearlessly pushing the boundaries of architectural norms in miniature with joyful defiance.

For 'Arts & Crafts', Hadley unveils a striking collection of 3D printed lampshades, an expansion of his foray into furniture designs. These luminous creations originate as digital models constructed from 'solid primitives,' rudimentary forms

instructed from basic commands such as ‘cylinder’ and ‘box’ in AutoCAD (Computer–Aided Design Software). These primary shapes are then combined with a threaded shank and hole, enabling them to be seamlessly assembled into elegant columns that form the base of lamps once they emerge from the 3D printer. Seeking simplicity in form, Hadley opted for a timeless cone shape for the lampshade, ingeniously inverting it to impart an anthropomorphic quality. Balancing the imperative for translucency with structural integrity, the lampshade also embraces a spiral design, paying homage to the charming kitsch of lampshades’ past and echoing the mechanics of their base assembly. This playful fusion exemplifies Hadley’s mastery of blending elements often perceived as opposites—tradition and technology, refinement and tack, restraint and excess. Beneath the childlike surface of colourful jubilation in Hadley’s works lies a rich interplay that transcends initial impressions and engages with historicizing elements.

The captivating worlds of Fritsch and Hadley invite rebellious fun and blurred categories. The works presented in ‘Arts & Crafts’ showcase how each artist intersects common conventions with their shadow parts, challenging accepted standards and divisions. In a world increasingly obsessed with differences rather than similarities and cementing rigorous dichotomies, their works prompt us to reconsider the relevance and artifice of categories, erasing the lines that society so eagerly draws. Perhaps the most important word in the title is neither arts nor crafts, but the ampersand that brings the two together. ‘Arts & Crafts’ is not just a showcase of new works but a testament to the power of creative exploration and a reminder that boundaries are imagined.



Grace Lai is an art historian and curator who engages with material culture as a decoder of the immaterial, to question areas relevant not only to Museums and their collections but contemporary society. Currently, Grace is the Curator of Applied Arts & Design at Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum where she leads the exhibition, development, and research of a nationally significant archive of craft from Aotearoa New Zealand and abroad.



LP.F1

2023

Thermoplastic polyester, electronic components, aluminium

410mm(H) x 145mm(W) x 145mm(D)

\$1800



LP.F2

2023

Thermoplastic polyester, electronic components, aluminium

440mm(H) x 130mm(W) x 130mm(D)

\$1800



LP.F3

2023

Thermoplastic polyester, electronic components, aluminium

455mm(H) x 125mm(W) x 125mm(D)

\$1800



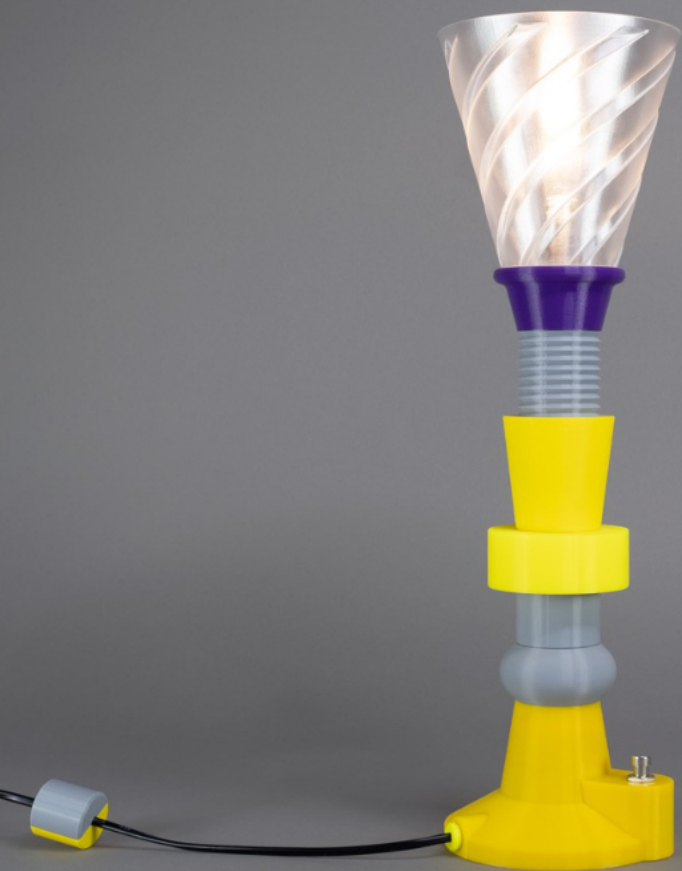
LPF4

2023

Thermoplastic polyester, electronic components, aluminium

455mm(H) x 125mm(W) x 125mm(D)

\$1800



LP.F5

2023

Thermoplastic polyester, electronic components, aluminium

430mm(H) x 130mm(W) x 130mm(D)

\$1800



Round Round #1

2022

Aluminium, anodised aluminium, thermoplastic polyester, electronic components

Variable dimensions

\$2100



Decorative Panel (Decors)

2022

Aluminium, cubic zirconia

178 x 255 x 36

\$1350



Ring 01

2023

18k gold, 14k gold, silver, synthetic rubies

\$3900



Ring 02
2023
18k gold, 18k white gold with diamonds (0.38ct), silver, synthetic rubies and sapphires, cubic zirconia
\$4350



Ring 03
2023
18k gold, cubic zirconia
\$4200



Ring 04
2023

10k white gold, diamonds (0.36ct), silver, synthetic rubies
\$4350



Ring 05

2023

18k gold, cubic zirconia

\$4200



Ring 06

2023

18k gold, synthetic rubies and sapphires, cubic zirconia

\$4350



Ring 07

2023

14k gold, diamonds (0.85ct), cubic zirconia, synthetic sapphires
\$5000



Ring 08

2023

10k palladium white gold, diamonds, sapphires, silver, synthetic rubies and sapphires, cubic zirconia

\$4200



Ring 09

2023

14k white gold, diamonds (0.5ct), rubies (0.3ct), silver

\$4700



Ring 10

2023

10k gold, 18k gold, diamonds (1.01ct)

\$5900



Ring 11
2023
white gold, garnet, silver, cubic zirconia
\$3900



Ring 12
2023

14k gold, 18k gold, diamonds (0.88ct)
\$5900



Ring 13

2023

14k gold, 18k gold, diamonds (0.5ct), synthetic sapphires, cubic zirconia
\$4000



Ring 14

2023

14k gold, 18k gold, diamonds (0.5ct), silver, cubic zirconia

\$4200



Ring 15

2023

18k gold, platinum, silver, diamonds (0.6ct)

\$4200



Ring 16
2023
18k white gold, diamonds (0.3ct), silver
\$4200



Ring 17

2023

18k gold, synthetic rubies and sapphires, cubic zirconia

\$5600



Ring 18
2023
silver, synth sapphire, cubic zirconia
\$3200



Ring 19

2023

9k palladium white gold, synthetic rubies and
sapphires, cubic zirconia

\$4350



Ring 20
2023
silver, synthetic rubies and sapphires,
cubic zirconia
\$2800



Ring 21

2023

silver, brass, cubic zirconia

\$2800



Ring 22

2023

silver, brass, cubic zirconia

\$2800



Ring 23

2023

silver, brass, cubic zirconia

\$2800



Ring 24
2023
silver, brass, cubic zirconia
\$2800



Ring F4

2023

silver, synthetic sapphires and rubies, cubic zirconia

\$2500



Ring F3

2023

palladium white gold 10k, synthetic sapphires and rubies,
cubic zirconia

\$4600



Ring F1

2023

palladium white gold 10k, synthetic sapphires and rubies,
cubic zirconia

\$4350



Ring F2
2023
18k gold, synthetic sapphires, cubic zirconia
\$5600



Ring F13

2023

white gold, oxidised yellow gold, diamond (1ct)

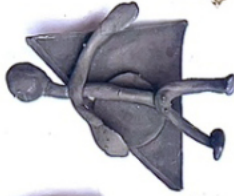
\$6650



Ring F12
2023
10k gold, silver
\$2200



Brooch 25, 1988
silver, brass, copper
NFS



Brooch 26, 1999
silver
\$2100



Brooch 27, 1997
silver
\$4200



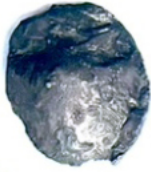
Brooch 28, 1998
silver, brass
\$5200



Brooch 29, 1998
silver, hematite
\$5200



Brooch 30, 1988
silver, brass, glass
\$5200



Brooch 31, 1993
silver
\$1500



Brooch 32, 2012
silver
\$1500



Brooch 33, 2012
silver, brass
\$2600



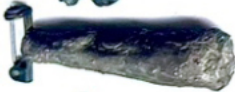
Brooch 34, 1994, silver, steel
\$2600



Brooch 35, 1994, silver, steel
\$2600



Brooch 36, 1994, silver, steel
\$2600



Brooch 37, 1994, silver, steel
\$2600



Brooch 38, 1994, silver, steel
cubic zirconia \$4350



Brooch 39, 1994, silver, steel,
\$4350



Brooch 40, 1994, silver, steel
\$4350



Brooch 41, 1994, silver, steel
\$3500

Jack Hadley (b. 1989) is an artist and educator based in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. Jack's practice spans contemporary jewellery, ad-hoc electronics and furniture design. From 2020 to 2021 Jack participated in the HANDSHAKE6 contemporary jewellery mentorship programme, where he worked with Karl Fritsch. Recent exhibition include: Seconds, Envy6011, Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington (2023); Round Round Objectspace, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland (2022); Follies, Laree Payne Gallery, Kirikiriroa Hamilton (2022); Whānui, The National, ūtautahi Christchurch (2022).

Karl Fritsch (b. 1963 in Sonthofen) began his education at the Goldsmiths School in Pforzheim and studying at the Academy of Fine Arts (1987–1994) in Munich. Fritsch has taught in art schools across the world, exhibited internationally and his work has been acquired for public collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, the Victoria and Albert Museum, London and the National Gallery of Victoria and Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. He received the highly prestigious international Françoise van den Bosch Award in 2006.

All prices are in AUD

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Saturdays on occasion & by appointment