

HOMO FABER

Fellowship

The exhibition **Today's Masters Meet Tomorrow's Talents** returns to Milan Design Week, showcasing the creative results of Homo Faber Fellowship 2025/26

21-26 APRIL 2026
AT ARTS & CRAFTS & DESIGN,
CASA DEGLI ARTISTI, MILAN
FREE ENTRANCE

Today's Masters Meet Tomorrow's Talents spotlights the co-created objects designed and handcrafted over the course of six months by the 22 duos of master artisans and emerging talents who have participated in the third edition of Homo Faber Fellowship, an annual eight-month sponsored craft training programme. This final exhibition of their original works is a celebration of the unique, cross-craft, cross-cultural, creative partnerships that were formed during the Fellowship.

This highly anticipated event will be staged in the beautiful Casa degli Artisti alongside three other exhibitions presented by Fondazione Cologni dei Mestieri d'Arte (together with *Living, Corriere della Sera*), Serapian and Creative Academy. Entitled Arts & Crafts & Design, this collaborative showcase invites visitors to discover some of the best contemporary craft and design collaboration projects in Europe today.

FROM SEVILLE TO MILAN VIA EUROPEAN ATELIERS

Developed by the Michelangelo Foundation for Creativity and Craftsmanship and its institutional partners, and supported by long-term partner Jaeger-LeCoultre, Homo Faber Fellowship pairs selected master artisans across Europe with emerging craft talents – the 'fellows' – for an eight-month sponsored craft training programme. After attending a month-long creative and entrepreneurial masterclass, developed by ESSEC Business School and Passa Ao Futuro, each fellow then spends six months in their paired master artisan's workshop, during which time master and fellow work together on a co-creation. At the end of the programme, these co-created objects are presented to the public in Today's Masters Meet Tomorrow's Talents.



The 22 master-fellow duos participating in Homo Faber Fellowship 2025/26 encompass 17 nationalities across four continents, and have been working together in seven countries across Europe: France, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the UK.

Between them, they practise 18 crafts, many of which are new to the Fellowship, including lutherie, boat building and millinery. Two of the duos are sponsored by Hiroshima-based car maker Mazda, in recognition of their dedication to Japanese artisanal tradition.

The programme began in September 2025 when the masterclass was held at the Alcalde Marqués de Contadero Space in Seville, Spain, a city with a multi-layered cultural scene and long artisanal heritage. In addition to the academic programme, which centred on key business, design and communication skills relevant to a career in craft, the month included visits to artisan workshops and cultural experiences related to the Andalusian city's vibrant craft scene.

BEAUTY AND LIGHT

During the masterclass, the duos were briefed on the theme intended to inspire the creation of their pieces for the exhibition. Set by Turin-born artist and designer Giampiero Bodino, Art Director of the Richemont Group, who is overseeing this year's co-creation process and final exhibition, the brief tasked the duos with creating an object centred on two main axes: the beauty that derives from craftsmanship; and an object's relationship with light.

The 22 unique co-creations resulting from this brief reveal the colours, forms and inspirations that make materials come alive. Between them, the duos have drawn from natural and synthetic materials, traditional techniques and innovative technologies, abstraction and figuration, texture and colour to achieve three-dimensional forms that play with light and are synonymous with beauty.

The final pieces include: a ceramic 'sea monster' composed of multiple small glazed and decorated elements and lit to accentuate the colours, created by France-based, American master ceramicist Kartini Thomas and Portuguese fellow Alvaró Nogueira; an installation of glass components that captures the energy of the land around the workshop of Irish master glassmaker Adrienne Diamond, collaborating with fellow Fiona Byrne; and a decorative 3D object that explores the intersection of materiality, structure and form, created by UK-based Japanese master paper sculptor Kuniko Maeda and her fellow, textile crafter Momoka Ienaga.

For the fellows, participating in Homo Faber Fellowship has allowed them to learn from their paired masters and grow their skills, while the masters have been inspired by the fresh energy and ideas of their fellows to explore new approaches.

Master weaver Morgane Baroghel, based in Aix-en-Provence, France, welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with French textile design graduate Maëva Louvel, with whom she is creating a suspended metal artwork handwoven from enamelled copper thread. "Welcoming Maëva to my workshop for six months was an opportunity to share my expertise and values over an extended period. It was also a chance to work together on a co-creation project, a step outside my usual approach that allowed me to explore new ways of creating, gently guided by Maëva's wonderful energy!"

Maëva said she was "deeply grateful for this experience with Morgane, with whom I share the same strong values. Our time together has been characterised by cohesion, genuine



collaboration, respectful discussion, continuous learning and mutual inspiration, all of which give deep meaning to what we have created together.”

In Spain, master silversmith Juan Garrido Gayubo and metal sculptor Rocío Ortiz Vara have worked together on a triptych puzzle box made of rose gold- and silver-plated brass. The experience has been “extremely positive and truly enriching,” said Juan. “Rocío is highly receptive to guidance and feedback, and at the same time very confident, committed and reliable in her work. This has created a fluid and productive collaboration in the workshop. Together, we are developing a piece that reflects the dialogue between master and apprentice, and we are very excited about its potential. We strongly believe it will be a meaningful contribution to the upcoming exhibition in Milan.”

Rocío said it was “deeply enriching” to work with Juan, his sister Paloma and their small team of artisans. “Together, they help me understand, develop and enrich my existing knowledge through an approach shaped by a long professional trajectory in the craft. I admire the attention to detail and the importance they place on excellence and fine workmanship, as well as the support, trust and creative freedom they offer in the development of this collaborative creation.”

Giampiero Bodino commented: “The importance of this project lay in bringing my work as a designer and artist closer to the concrete world of the artisan, an experience I’ve already lived several times, yet one that never stops offering pleasant surprises.”

A COLLECTIVE ENDEAVOUR: ARTS & CRAFTS & DESIGN

Today’s Masters Meet Tomorrow’s Talents will be presented at Milan Design Week alongside three other exhibitions by partners who share the Michelangelo Foundation’s dedication to nurturing talent and fostering collaboration.

This collective presentation at Casa degli Artisti, entitled Arts & Crafts & Design, will also include:

- ◆ **Doppia Firma** by Fondazione Cologni dei Mestieri d’Arte, in partnership with *Living, Corriere della Sera*. Since 2016, this annual project has brought together visionary designers from all over the world with master artisans to create a unique collection of original, refined objects.
- ◆ **The Secrets of Mestieri d’Arte** by Serapian, a Milanese leathergoods maison founded in 1928. A journey celebrating the craft and mastery of extraordinary materials through an exhibition of an exclusive selection of *mestieri d’arte* creations.
- ◆ **Treasure Island** by Creative Academy. A collection of design objects inspired by the famous adventure novel by R. L. Stevenson, a concept devised by Van Cleef & Arpels for the young talents of the Richemont design school.

Alberto Cavalli, Executive Director of the Michelangelo Foundation said: “Since its inception, the Michelangelo Foundation has sought to highlight the connection between craft, the wider arts and the design world. Homo Faber Fellowship is key to this, helping to generate fruitful connections, nurture established and emerging talent, and celebrate the innovative and surprising works that are born from collaboration. At Milan Design Week 2026 we are delighted to be able to showcase the fertile results of the third edition of the Fellowship alongside three other projects that share our passion for forging connections. Together, these four exhibitions



reveal the joy, beauty and excellence produced by the coming together of artisans and designers, masters and new talents.”

THE 22 DUOS OF HOMO FABER FELLOWSHIP 2025/26

FRANCE

Wood carving: [Antonin Martineau](#) (French) & Nicolas de la Barre d'Erquelines (Belgian)

Textile pleating: [Harumi Sugiura](#) (Japanese) & Marcella Giannini (Italian-Colombian)

Ceramics: [Kartini Thomas](#) (American) & Álvaro Nogueira (Portuguese)

Weaving: [Morgane Baroghel](#) (French) & Maëva Louvel (French)

IRELAND

Glass sculpting: [Adrienne Diamond](#) (Irish) & Fiona Byrne (Irish)

Glass fusing: [Suzanne O Sullivan](#) (Irish) & Emeline Mézières (French)

NORWAY

Wood carving: [Lara Domeneghetti](#) (Italian) & Antonia Barth (German)

Lutherie: [Ottar Kåsa](#) (Norwegian) & Jake Fineberg (Norwegian)

Lutherie: [Wiebke Lüders](#) (German) & Naomi Soni (British)

POLAND

Furniture making: [Anna Bera](#) (Polish) & Zuzanna Szymłowska (Polish)

PORTUGAL

Lamp making: [Helena Imaginário](#) (Portuguese) & O33 (Chinese)

Textile sculpting: [Maria Pratas](#) (Portuguese) & Carolina De la Parra Quintana (Mexican-Spanish)

SPAIN

Ceramics: [Caterina Roma](#) (Spanish) & Mili Couto (Argentinian-Spanish)

Wallpaper making: [Juan Aresti](#) (Spanish) & Celia Botas Vigo (Spanish)

Silversmithing: [Juan Garrido Gayubo](#) (Spanish) & Rocío Ortiz Vara (Spanish)

Ceramics: [Pablo TITO](#) (Spanish) & Tito Martínez (Spanish)

Chairmaking: [Daniel Lizarralde](#) (Spanish) & Elena de Diego (Spanish)

UNITED KINGDOM

Bookbinding: [Kate Holland](#) (British) & Emma Vukman (Danish)

Straw marquetry: [Kim Jordan](#) (British) & Sandra Pinto (British-French)

Paper sculpting: [Kuniko Maeda](#) (Japanese) & Momoka Ienaga (Japanese)



Millinery: [Sahar Freemantle](#) (British) & Charlie Tolley (British)

Boat building: [Stephen Beresford](#) (British) & Line Packer (Swiss-British)

Today's Masters Meet Tomorrow's Talents

Arts & Crafts & Design

21-26 April

10:00-20:00

Casa degli Artisti

Via Tommaso da Cazzaniga, Corso Garibaldi 89/A, Milan

Free entrance upon registration

More information on homofaber.com

20 January 2026

NOTES FOR EDITORS

homofaber.com

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Homo Faber Fellowship is a yearly eight-month international sponsored craft training programme designed for duos of master artisans and emerging talents. The programme includes a month-long creative and entrepreneurial masterclass, a six-month sponsored placement in the workshop of a master artisan resulting in a co-created object, and a showcase at an international exhibition.

The Michelangelo Foundation for Creativity and Craftsmanship is a non-profit institution based in Geneva, which champions contemporary craftspeople worldwide with the aim of promoting a more human, inclusive and sustainable future. The Foundation seeks to highlight the connections between craft and the wider arts and the design world. Its mission is to both celebrate and preserve craftsmanship and its diversity of makers, materials and techniques, by increasing craft's everyday recognition and its viability as a professional path for future generations. The Foundation presents **Homo Faber**, a cultural movement centred on creative artisans worldwide. Its signature projects comprise: **Homo Faber NextGen**, a suite of education programmes for the next generations of artisans; **Homo Faber Guide**, an online platform showcasing artisans around the world; **Homo Faber Finds**, which identifies craft excellence and proposes imaginative ideas to inspire collaborations, private commissions and acquisitions; and a yearly programme of physical events including flagship celebration **Homo Faber Biennial** and curated exhibition series **Homo Faber Capsule**.
michelangelofoundation.org



Founding partner of Homo Faber Fellowship: Jaeger-LeCoultre: The Watchmaker of Watchmakers™

Since 1833, driven by an unquenchable thirst for innovation and creativity, and inspired by the peaceful natural surroundings of its home in the Vallée de Joux, Jaeger-LeCoultre has been distinguished by its mastery of complications and the precision of its mechanisms. Known as the Watchmaker of Watchmakers™, the manufacturer has expressed its relentlessly inventive spirit through the creation of more than 1,400 different calibres and the award of more than 430 patents. Harnessing 190 years of accumulated expertise, La Grande Maison's watchmakers design, produce, finish and ornament the most advanced and precise mechanisms, blending passion with centuries-old savoir-faire, linking the past to the future, timeless but always up with the times. With 180 skills brought together under one roof, the manufacturer creates fine timepieces that combine technical ingenuity with aesthetic beauty and a distinctively understated sophistication. jaeger-lecoultre.com

Arts & Crafts & Design is a new collaborative showcase uniting four key players in Milan's craft and design scene: Fondazione Cologni dei Mestieri d'Arte, the Michelangelo Foundation for Creativity & Craftsmanship, Creative Academy and Serapian. Held at Casa degli Artisti, a space that aligns with the quartet's shared values of creativity, experimentation and dialogue, this collective endeavour is a meaningful addition to the dynamic discourse of Milan Design Week, engaging with its core themes of design, sustainability, craftsmanship and innovation.



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