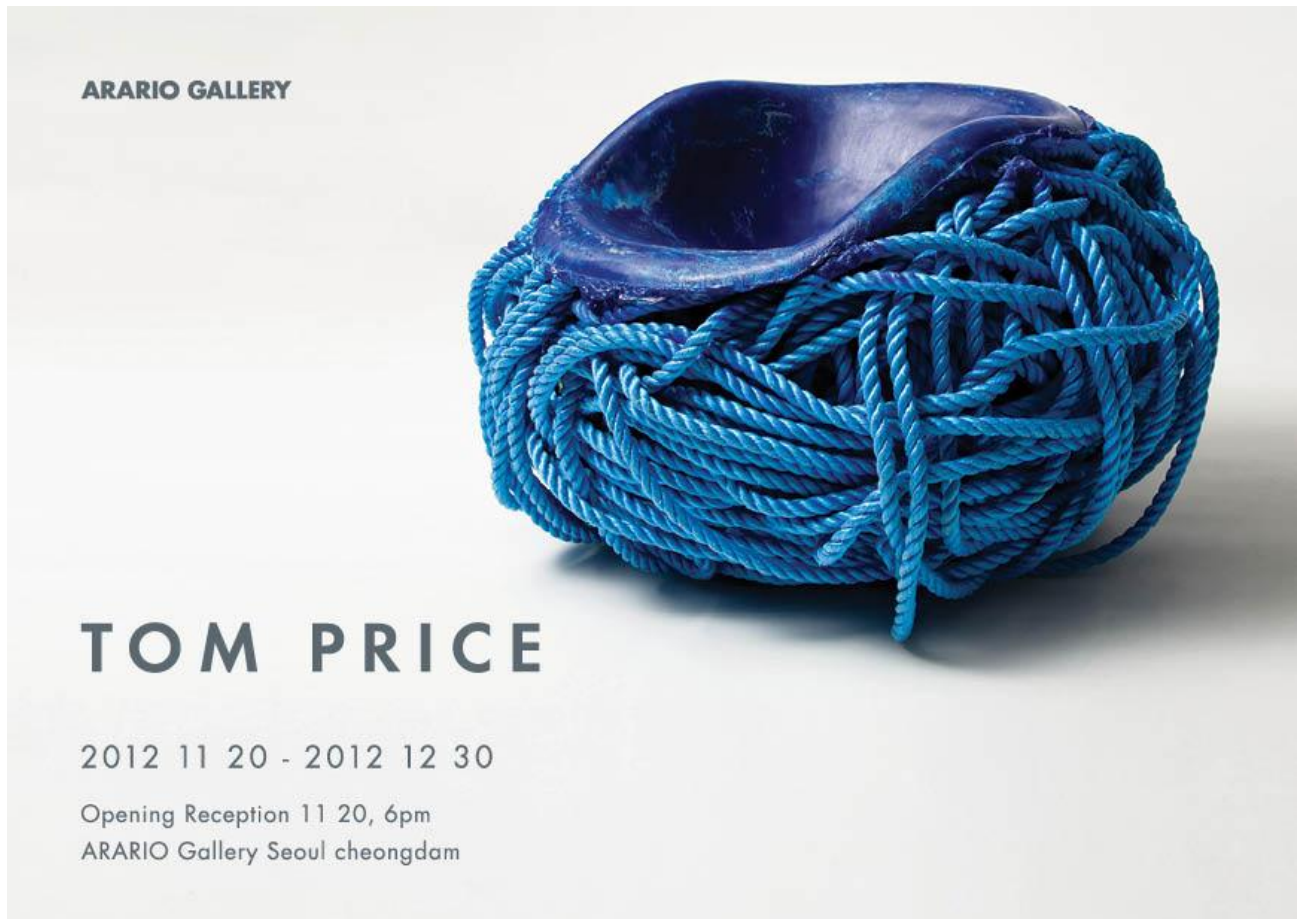


Press Release

TOM PRICE



Period | Tuesday, November 20th – Sunday, December 30th

Venue | ARARIO GALLERY, SEOUL cheongdam

Opening Reception | 6 PM, Tuesday, November 20th, 2012

Arario Gallery Seoul Cheongdam is pleased to present a solo exhibition by Tom Price, a British artist celebrated in the contemporary design world for his unique material experimentations. The exhibition presents a total of 12 works by the artist, including 10 chairs from his representative work, *Meltdown Series*, as well as the painting *PP EXP #1* and the large installation work, *PP Tree*, which gives a general overview of the artist's oeuvre. Presenting works that encompass the realms of both fine art and design today where the dividing line between art and industrial art is ever more blurred, this exhibition provides a glimpse into new possibilities in art.

Tom Price is a London-born artist whose unconventional approach and use of materials combine to create a diverse range of works that lie somewhere between the worlds of design and fine art. Process is a key element of Price's work in which common everyday materials are partially or wholly transformed and reinvented in strange but beautiful ways. Price received acclaim as a designer for his *Meltdown* Series, a body of work emerging from a unique experimental production process applied to assemblages of plastics such as nylon cable ties, polypropylene (PP) rope and plumbing tubes, Polyethylene (PE) sheeting, and discarded polyester clothing. A new form and outcome results every time, as a seat-shaped former is heated and pressed into each assembly of materials. The shape of the former is loosely based on the form of an Eames chair. This is partly to ensure that the melted surfaces offer a comfortable and ergonomically proven place to sit, but the familiarity of the form also helps to divert attention away from the actual design of the seat and allow the material to take centre stage. What makes Price's chairs so unique is the distinct contrast between the melted and the non-melted surfaces, demonstrating a new artistic possibility for materials that are normally so familiar to us in their ordinary utilitarian forms.

The installation work, *PP TREE*, evolved from techniques and experiments developed during production of the Meltdown Series. It is primarily an expression of the capabilities of the material (common polypropylene plumbing tubes) but it is also an examination of our attitudes towards plastics. The affordability and versatility of plastics has led to mass consumption, disposability and irresponsible applications. It is not surprising then that our impressions of plastics tend to be very negative. Through *PP Tree*, however, the artist questions our values and perceptions. Though made entirely from appropriated polypropylene pipes and cable ties, the delicate play of light and gracefulness of the formed tubes encourage us to look beyond the intended application and appreciate the poetic potential of the banal.

The work consists of a cluster of trees reminiscent of cherry trees in full bloom, filling the entire exhibition space. The individual plastic pipes used to make the trees are each laboriously manipulated into sweeping curves using heat. They are then grouped together in configurations that suggest tree-like forms and secured with cable ties. As the pipes are formed independently and not to any predetermined design, the shape of each tree is largely dictated by the juxtaposition of

one pipe to another and the compatibility of the various twists and curves. The 'blossom', made of thin slices of pipe, partially melted on one side to form randomly clustered sheets, is suspended and secured to the twisting tree branches. The configuration of the trees is designed specifically in response to the space it occupies. Emanating delicacy and mystique through the light that penetrates and radiates from the small tube openings, *PP TREE* re-focuses on a realm of art in which the very identity and significance of material itself becomes lost in the drama of the experience.

The PP EXP paintings are created by arranging concentric rings of black, white and grey polypropylene pipe inside one another and melting one end whilst applying varying degrees of pressure to each ring. The result, when cooled is a surface of ambiguous swirling, explosive monochromatic pigments, created blind and largely by chance, and each entirely unique.

For the artist, these experiments embody the essence of what he tries to capture within his work, allowing the materials to speak for themselves and removing himself as much as possible from the process. In all his experiments with materials and processes, it is the small details, rather than the big picture that hold the most fascination; where materials liquefy, discolour, blend and burn, and where true alchemy occurs, completely beyond control.

About the artist

Tom Price was born in England in 1973. He majored in Fine Art at Bath College of Art and studied Furniture Design at London Metropolitan University. In 2007 he received his MA at the Royal College of Art. This background has contributed to the application of new and experimental techniques in design. Price was acknowledged as a world-class designer this year when he was awarded the title of Designer of the Year at the international Boomsp Design and Architecture Festival in Sao Paolo, Brazil. Other awards include the Boss Design Mentoring Award and the Peter Walker Award given to innovative furniture designers. Price was also selected as finalist for BIDA, supervised by the British Interior Design Association in 2005.

Price's works are included in the permanent collections of several major international art institutions such as the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Denver Art Museum; MKG Hamburg, Germany. Public art commissions include sculptures in Kimbrose Square in Gloucester England; and the Royal Terrace Gardens in Torquay, England. Price currently lives and works in London.

TOM PRICE (b.1973, BRITISH)



EDUCATION

- 2005 - 2007 MA Royal College of Art
2002 - 2004 HND Furniture Design & Realization, London Metropolitan University
1993 - 1996 BA Hons Fine Art: Sculpture, Bath C of HE

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 Tom Price; Arario Gallery, Seoul, Korea
2012 Tom Price; Meltdown, Showme Gallery, Barcellos, Portugal
2011 Tom Price; Industry Gallery, Design Miami, USA
2011 Tom Price; Industry Gallery, Washington DC, USA
2009 Tom Price; Chapter7 Concept Store, Hangzhou, China
2009 Tom Price At Oliver Sweeney, London, UK

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 Fairytale Fantasy & Fear; The Mint Museum (Uptown) Charlotte, North Carolina, USA
2010 Hold the Line; Gallery Seine 51, Paris, France
2009 Lodz International Design Biennale; Lodz, Poland
2009 Cheongju International Craft Biennale 2009; Korea
2009 UFO: Art and Design; NRW Forum, Dusseldorf, Germany
2008 Second Lives: Remixing the Ordinary; Museum of Art and Design, New York, USA
2008 From Now to Eternity; Mother Biscuit Building, London, UK

2008 Tent London; Truman Brewery, London, UK
2008 Birds, Bats & Bees; Philips de Pury, London, UK
2008 D3 Talents; International Furniture Fair, imm Cologne, Germany
2007 Designers Block; Nicholls & Clarke Buildings, London, UK
2007 Gradual; Brompton Design District, London, UK
2007 56x45x25; +Arch Studio, Milan, Italy
2006 Intimacycity; Design Mai, Berlin, Germany
2005 Little Britons (idFX 10 favourite designers), London Interiors, Earls Court, London, UK
2004 New Designers (Max Fraser Selection), Gainsborough Studios, London, UK

PUBLICATIONS

Taken by Surprise

Editors Robert Klanten, Sven Ehmann, Anna Sinofzik
Publisher: Gestalten; Berlin, 2012

Contemporary Furniture

Author: Martin Wellner and Andrea Mehlhose
Publisher: h.f. ullmann; Germany, 2009

Desire

Author: Elizabeth Honerla
Publisher: Gestalten; Germany, 2009

Limited Edition

Author: Sophie Lovel
Publisher: Birkhäuser; Germany, 2009

London Design Guide 2010 Edition

Author: Max Fraser
Spotlight Press Ltd; London, UK, 2009

New Talents – The State of the Arts

Author: Hans Maier-Aichen
Publisher: avedition; Ludwigsburg, Germany, 2009

Second Lives: Remixing the Ordinary

Author: Museum of Arts and Design
Publisher: MAD; New York, New York, USA, 2009

The Independent Design Guide:

Innovative Products from the New Generation
Author: Laura Housley
Publisher: Thames and Hudson; London, UK, 2009

UFO Blurring the Boundaries Between Art & Design

Werner Lippert / Petra Wenzel
NRW-Forum Kultur und Wirtschaft; Dusseldorf, Germany, 2009

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Denver Museum of Art

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMoMA)

Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg

PUBLIC COMMISSIONS

2011 Kyneburgh Tower & Wall

Two large steel sculptural works installed in Kimbrose Square, Gloucester, UK

2010 Speleothem

Bronze sculpture installed in a grotto at the foot of the Royal Terrace Gardens, Torquay, UK

2008 Metropolitan Works

Decorative design, laser-cut into aluminium panels cladding entire ground floor of new
Digital Manufacturing Centre, London, UK

AWARDS

2012 Winner: Designer of the Year, **BOOMSPDESIGN**, Brazil

2005 Finalist: British Interior Design Association (BIDA) Awards 2005

2005 Finalist: Design and Decoration Awards 2005

2004 Winner: Peter Walker Award for Innovation in Furniture Design

IMAGES



Meltdown Chair: PP Blue Rope, 2007, polypropylene rope, 75 x 95 x 95 cm



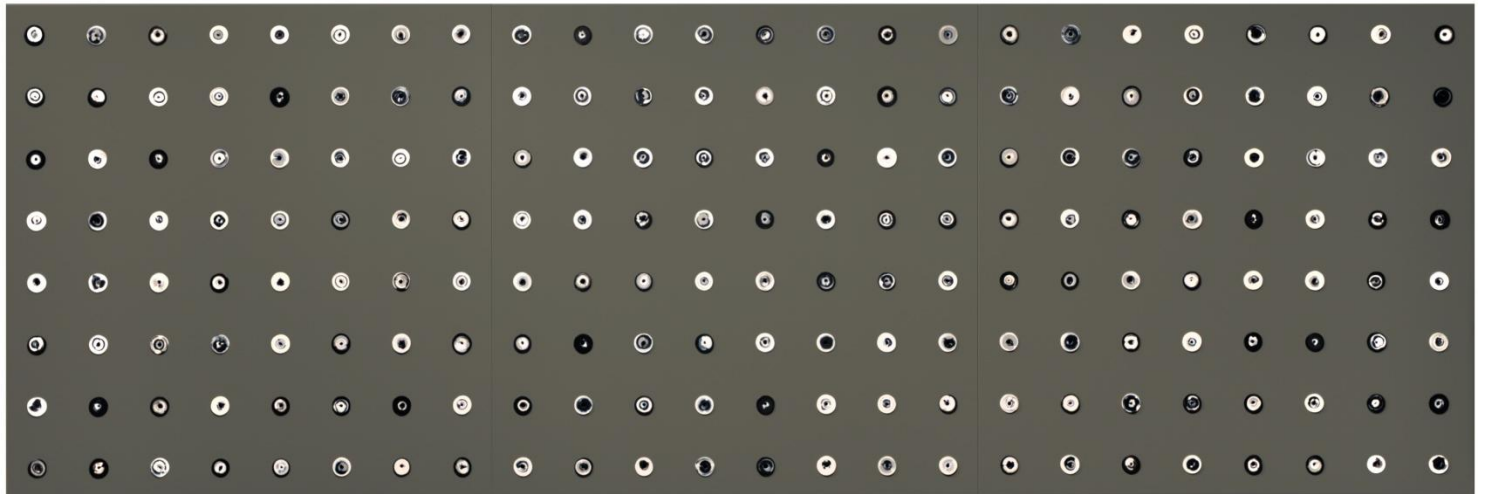
Meltdown Chair: Bronze #1, 2011, Bronze, 75 x 45 x 45 cm



Meltdown Chair: PP Sheet, 2008, polypropylene rope, 110 x 150 x 150 cm



Meltdown Chair: PP Tube #1 Black, 2012, polypropylene tubes, 120 x 180 x 140 cm



PP EXP #1, 2011, mixed media on canvas, 120 x 360 x 10cm



PP EXP #1, 2011, mixed media on canvas, 120 x 360 x 10cm_Detail



PP Tree, 2011, polypropylene pipe, nylon cable ties, stainless steel wire rope, Tube diameters: 32 mm & 40mm,
Tree heights: approx. 3 m to 5 m, Tree widths: approx. 2 m to 4 m



PP Tree, 2011, polypropylene pipe, nylon cable ties, stainless steel wire rope, Tube diameters: 32 mm & 40mm, Tree heights: approx 3 m to 5 m, Tree widths: approx 2 m to 4 m _ Detail



PP Tree, 2011, polypropylene pipe, nylon cable ties, stainless steel wire rope, Tube diameters: 32 mm & 40mm, Tree heights: approx 3 m to 5 m, Tree widths: approx 2 m to 4 m _ Detail

[Image courtesy of the Artist and Arario gallery](#)

© INFORMATION

Inquiry

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Image

Image data or caption can be downloaded from Arario webhard.

www.webhard.net

ID: arariogallery / PW: arario

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Visitors

ARARIO GALLERY SEOUL cheongdam

(135-100) #99-5 #99-5 Cheongdam-dong, Kangnam-gu, Seoul, Korea

Exhibition Hour : Tue - Sun 10:00 am - 07:00 pm (closed on Mondays)

Contact Information: T) 02 541 5701 F) 02 541 5704

www.arariogallery.com