



News release
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V&A Announces Make Good Display 2024 Material Cultures: Woodland Goods

Material Cultures: Woodland Goods
Furniture Gallery, Room 133
V&A South Kensington
26 November 2024 – 31 October 2025
Free



The V&A, in collaboration with architectural studio Material Cultures, announces the fourth iteration of *Make Good: Rethinking Material Futures*, opening on 26 November 2024. The display sees Material Cultures spotlight three underused woodland resources: bark, natural glues and pine needles, and explores how design and material research can make meaningful progress towards a post-carbon built environment.

The studio focusses its research on the most common building component there is – sheet material – to explore how we can make ply, composites and cladding that are free from harmful glues and plastics. Material Culture’s ply was made by applying heat and pressure to strips of silver birch and coast redwood bark – once the natural glues within the bark are activated, the material binds to itself to form a solid sheet. The cladding draws on the exceptional waterproofing properties of bark in its rawest form, straight off the tree. These sheets, among others, sit alongside Material Culture’s pioneering experiments and demonstrate what a more environmentally mindful future could look like.

Material Cultures said: “These exciting materials centre ecological thinking, showing how the status quo can be transformed.”

Paying close attention to how we can harvest and work with natural materials in a responsible way, *Material Cultures: Woodland Goods* reveals the potential of woodland resources. It addresses some of our planet’s most urgent issues, such as how we can grow more resilient woodlands that can survive changes imposed by the climate crisis, how we can transition towards biodiverse, regenerative woodlands, and how we can utilise the materials that they provide us.

– ENDS –

For further PRESS information about Make Good: Rethinking Material Futures please contact Saffron Brown Davis on s.browndavis@vam.ac.uk / +44 (0)20 7942 2502 (not for publication). A selection of press images is available to download free of charge from pressimages.vam.ac.uk

Social Media

Twitter: @V_and_A

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About Make Good: Rethinking Material Futures

Make Good: Rethinking Material Futures is a V&A curatorial project investigating the use of natural, renewable materials in design and architecture. It encourages and explores ideas of stewardship of natural resources and considers the responsibilities of designers and consumers towards the natural world in a time of climate crisis.

Make Good is supported by furniture maker and designer John Makepeace, OBE, and runs for a ten-year period. Launched in 2022, it sits in line with the V&A Sustainability Plan. As such the project has an important remit to engage audiences in debates around the climate crisis in a decade dedicated to addressing the devastating effects of climate change on the planet.