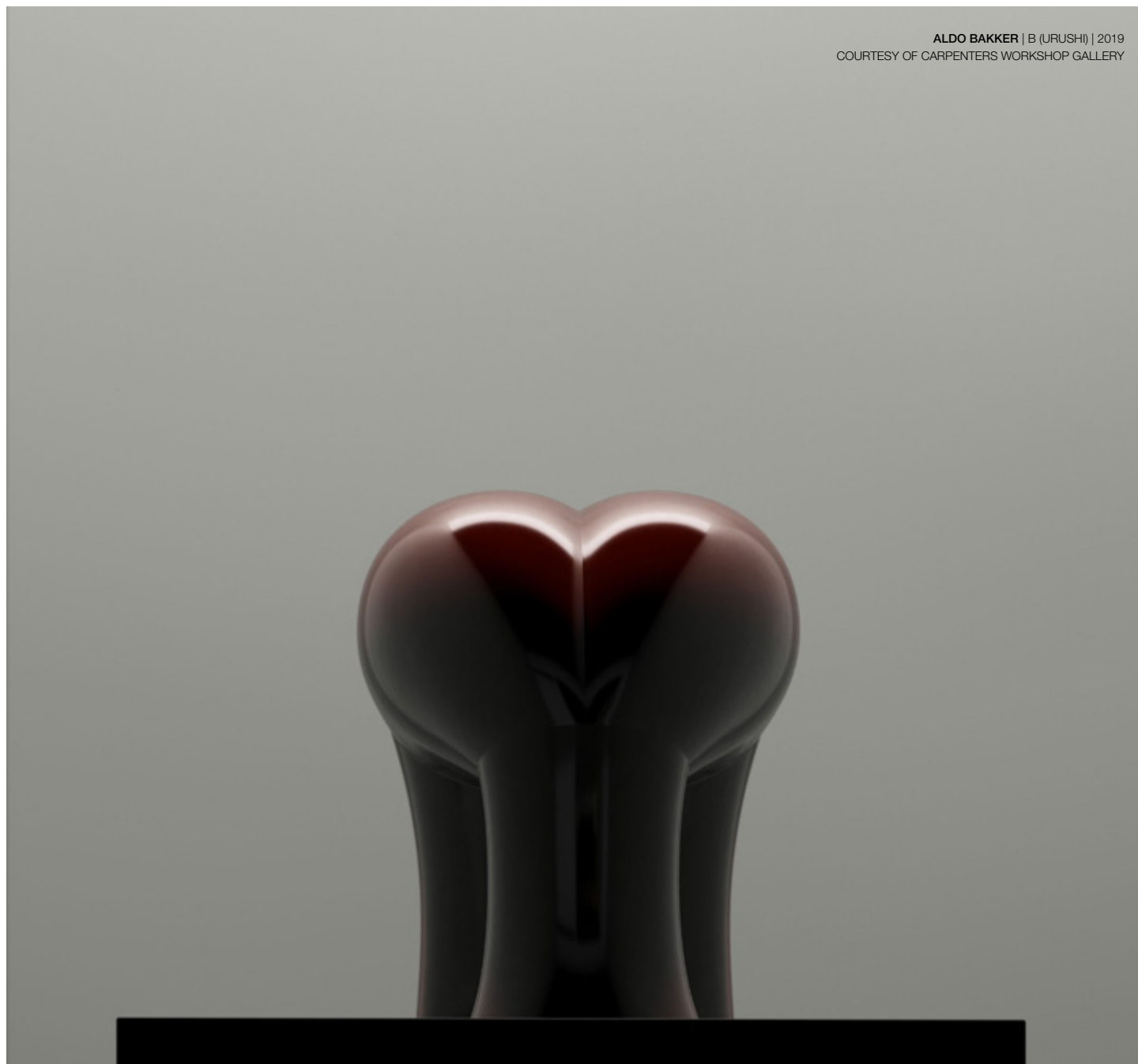


PARIS | CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY

# ALDO BAKKER SLOW MOTION

21 OCTOBER - 18 DECEMBER 2020

PRESS RELEASE



**OPENING 20 OCTOBER**  
BY APPOINTMENT FOR PRESS

54 RUE DE LA VERRERIE, LE MARAIS, PARIS

**Paris, France:** Carpenters Workshop Gallery presents the solo exhibition *Slow Motion* with 19 new and recent works by Dutch artist Aldo Bakker for the first time in France. Crossing the boundaries between art and design, the objects slowly reveal their ambiguous forms and meaning as each one has its own character and singular appearance. Through sketching and modelling Bakker tries to unravel the logic behind a form which has to be independent, free of expectation and discipline. The possible role gradually becomes clear, whether it offers a place to sit or to lean, to drink from or to pour out, to look at or to caress.

The artist seduces the viewer to take their time, to carefully observe the specific curves, contours, weight and edges and to build a rapport with the works. By slowing down this process of “seeing”, Aldo creates a dialogue between the object and viewer. It is through this interaction the viewer’s perception can shift, allowing form, material and the possibility of function to manifest.

Made of quartzite, marble, red travertin, green onyx, dark pietra basaltina, aluminum, wood, gold, silver, or colorful urushi, each work has its own color, direction and pattern. The form is especially emphasized and perfected through the urushi with its rich sandy surface. The transformative and rarely-used Japanese lacquer is an age-old beautiful material applied in a delicate process of layer upon layer. This time-consuming and labor-intensive practice is also unique in how it preserves objects, making them stronger and more solid and the color more vibrant as it ages. Bakker’s ten stone works contrast to the urushi pieces with their strength and weight.

Bakker comments: *“I start with appreciation of elements to create a shape – an object that emerges from the combination of elements, becomes an entity, that slowly demands and starts to inform the process of creation. I want my objects to feel at ease. If there is room for a function, it is integrated. The presence of a straight line could indicate a table, yet the straight line is at first part of other elements, lines and planes. What looks like a table speaks about what a table could be, but it also reflects on the choreography of verticality vs. the horizontal. The equilibrium it creates is as captivating as a tightrope walk between two skyscrapers. A balancing act.”*

Julien Lombrail, Co-founder of Carpenters Workshop Gallery comments: *“We’re delighted to continue our collaboration with Aldo whose works embody our vision at Carpenters Workshop Gallery of crossing boundaries between art and design, form and function. Each piece is individual and demands the attention of an artwork. ‘Slow Motion’ feels more timely as ever as we have learnt to slow down and found a new appreciation for deceleration.”*

## ABOUT ALDO BAKKER

Aldo Bakker (NL, 1971) rejected a formal arts training. As an autodidact he carefully studied the oeuvres of some of the most idiosyncratic artists of the modern age, ranging from composer Luigi Nono and painter Giorgio Morandi to writer J.M. Coetzee and architect Carlo Scarpa. With these masters, Bakker shares a fundamental interest for the language of their favored medium. In fact, the introverted nature of his works, their elegant curves and facets, the depth of their surfaces and their flawless execution all contribute to the sensation that these artefacts tell their own stories in their own language. When they leave the studio – often after years of careful deliberation – the objects no longer bear witness to their maker, but exclusively to their own existence. To the questions they raise about the integrity of their being.

Many of Aldo Bakker's works are unique pieces. Several are produced in small editions. Next to his independent studio production Bakker has also created commissioned works for companies like Georg Jensen, Karakter, Puiforcat, Sèvres and Swarovski. His work has been acquired by museums like Boijmans Van Beuningen (Rotterdam), MoMa (NY), Cooper Hewitt (NY), mudac (Lausanne), Philadelphia Museum of Art, Centre Pompidou (Paris), Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam and Victoria & Albert Museum (London). In 2016 and 2017 a major overview of his work was presented in the exhibition Pause (CID Grand Hornu, mudac Lausanne). His last solo show in France was in 2011 at Perimeter Gallery.

## ABOUT CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY

From Functional Art to Collectible Design, today Carpenters Workshop Gallery produces and exhibits functional sculptures by international rising and established artists or designers going outside their traditional territories of expression. Actively involved in the research and production of limited edition works, the gallery's choices are guided by seeking an emotional, artistic and historical relevance and breaking boundaries between art and design.

The gallery relies on the partnership of childhood friends, Julien Lombrail and Loic le Gaillard. They first opened a space in London's Chelsea in 2006 in a former carpenter's workshop; they now operate four galleries globally in London, Paris, New York, and more recently in San Francisco. In 2015, the gallery opened The Workshop in Roissy, a unique 8,000 square meters space dedicated to artistic research bringing together the elite of artisans. Today, Carpenters Workshop Gallery is recognized as a leading gallery for contemporary collectible design.

**Address:** Carpenters Workshop Gallery, 54 rue de la Verrerie, Paris 75004

**Opening hours:** Monday – Saturday, 10AM-7PM

**Website:** [www.carpentersworkshopgallery.com](http://www.carpentersworkshopgallery.com)

**Instagram:** @carpentersworkshopgallery



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COURTESY CARPENTERS WORKSHOP GALLERY

IMAGES AVAILABLE FOR PRESS  
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