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ARTIST AND DESIGNER TY BEST TO LAUNCH NEW COLLECTION AT WILLER IN LONDON



London gallery Willer will launch a collection of furniture, lighting, sculpture and special editions by American artist and designer Ty Best in September 2015.

Best has developed his unique design language under the name CASTE. For the Willer exhibition Montana-based Best has created 13 pieces that are at once luxurious and simple, earthy and refined. He has worked with Montana artisans to create natural forms and a palette of organic materials, including marble, bronze, leather and wood, all of which make up Best's design DNA and give the collection a timeless quality. His unique aesthetic has been called "future primitive".

Gallery founder Rebecca Willer is a highly respected curator of rare, beautiful furniture, tableware and objects. Rebecca collaborates with renowned artists and designers, including Paul Mathieu, Massimo Micheluzzi and Claudy Jongstra on unique pieces for the home. "I had been following Ty's evolution as a furniture designer from the beginning," she says. "The exquisite forms and beauty of the materials were always perfectly matched, both new and timeless, bold and elegant. We are delighted to be working with Ty to present his expanding collection and his art in London."

After many years spent working as a visual artist, sculptor and leading fashion stylist in California and New York, Best returned to his native Montana where he honed his maverick, hands-on approach from the isolation of a farmhouse in Missoula. "It's out-of-the-way and I love that," he says of his decision to work in a rural place, away from the hustle and bustle of big cities. "I love the feeling that I have my own perspective, that I do things in my own way. There is no compromise and no second-guessing. It's very honest."



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Best's background informed his approach to layering materials and his sense of the fantastical, but it was necessity that prompted the leap from fine art and fashion to furniture: "I needed dispensary and worktables for my studio and I started to display my sculpture on the pieces I created. I just worked in the way that felt most natural, which wasn't with a computer."

A far cry from a typical CAD-driven design process, each CASTE piece is conceived and perfected in the studio, via sketching and hand-prototyping in wood, where Best translates his love of fine art and the Montana countryside into rarefied pieces of furniture and accessories.

"The name CASTE struck a tone with me – it means 'pure' in Latin – and that's the way I work. It isn't like fashion, where once it's gone, it's gone. With furniture there needs to be restraint. I try to create pieces that endure the test of time but that also have a sense of adventure and personality."



Notes

Ty Best was born and raised in Montana, USA. He spent his early career on the West Coast studying and working in the fashion industry. Best returned to his native state in 1994, using it as the base from which to continue his prolific design career for iconic New York stores. Throughout, he continued to pursue his sculpting and painting; his interest in what eventually emerged as CASTE piqued by the idea of applying his artistry to furniture design. He created his first collection in 2007, establishing CASTE soon after. In 2008, he opened a CASTE gallery in Chicago to showcase and sell his furniture and artwork. The collection has since grown to encompass furniture, objects, and lighting, and has, from the outset, received critical acclaim.

CASTE pieces at Willer are priced from around £1,000 for a series of bronze and wood trays and centrepieces, to just over £25,000 for a hand-carved coffee table.

Ty Best will be in London to launch the pieces at Willer gallery in September 2015.
(www.willer.co.uk)

For more information, including further images, product loans and prices, or to arrange interviews with Ty Best or Rebecca Willer, contact:

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Finishes selected for a number of the pieces to be shown by Willer vary from those illustrated.

Pouf Bench/Table
195.5 x 43 x 43cm



Fortine Sconce
50 x 8 x 13cm



Nissler Coffee Table
206 x 63 x 35cm



Volt Stool
56 x 48 x 44.5cm



Bridger Cast Bronze Tables
1: 20 x 49.5cm | 2: 28 x 61cm | 3: 33 x 49.5cm



Flint Sconce
20 x 24.5 x 44cm

For more information, including product loans, further images and prices, or to arrange interviews with Ty Best or Rebecca Willer, contact: christine@friendsandco.co.uk and belinda@friendsandco.co.uk.

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Bridger Oval Occasional Table
48 x 25.5 x 42cm



Pryor Console
182 x 35.5 x 81cm



Flint Floor Lamp
54.5 x 175cm

Wishbone Table
64.5 x 37.5 x 51cm



Bridger Daybed
207 x 80 x 38.5cm



Bridger Console
1: 142 x 40.5 x 86cm | 2: 170 x 47 x 86cm

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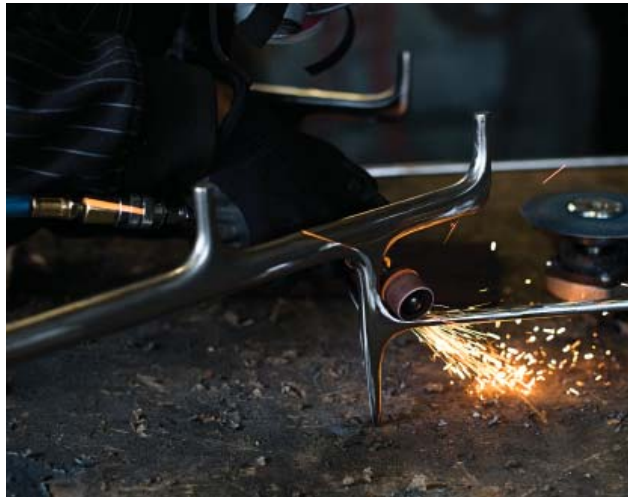
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