

# CRAFTS

THE MAGAZINE FOR CONTEMPORARY CRAFT

## FATHER AND SON

*Nicholas Arroyave-Portela gets personal*

## DUTCH COURAGE

*Droog's Gijs Bakker takes on Taiwan*

## CULTURAL EXCHANGE

*Making meets dance at Siobhan Davies*

## PUPPET STATE

*Little Theatre of Dolls puts on a show*

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## The fab five

*Intuizione* is a new collection of lights created by Mediterraneo Studio, led by creative director Giovanni Corrado, and Notting Hill's Vessel Gallery. All pieces are limited editions, made from a combination of metal and hand-blown Murano glass. According to Vessel's founder Angel Monzon: 'We greatly admire Giovanni's creative designs. As an Italian, he understands the ancient craft of glass and his work pushes the boundaries in contemporary lighting.' Corrado believes that the five new pieces 'challenge typecast ideas of Murano glass,' adding: 'Vessel's invitation gives us the chance to explore design ideas not predestined by the material properties of glass.' The pieces are at Vessel until 31 July and cost between £4,076 - £11,055. [www.vesselgallery.com](http://www.vesselgallery.com)

## His old china

Opening on 15 July at Portland's Museum of Contemporary Craft, *Dropping the Urn* (Ceramic Works, 5000BCE - 2010CE), is a major solo show for Chinese artist and political activist Ai Weiwei. He investigates authenticity and iconoclasm in ceramic tradition by marking, smashing and grinding Neolithic or Han dynasty vessels. Also on show will be the replicas of Qing dynasty porcelain vessels the artist commissioned from Jingdezhen craftsmen, so finely made that only carbon dating distinguishes them from their originals. Those not planning a trip to Portland will have to wait for Ai Weiwei's commission in Tate Modern's Turbine Hall, specifics secret until the 12 October unveiling. [www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk)  
[www.museumofcontemporarycraft.org](http://www.museumofcontemporarycraft.org)



Clockwise from left: *Ostris*, Mediterraneo, edition of ten, 60 cm diam.; *Coloured Vases*, Ai Weiwei, Neolithic vases, industrial paint; *Custom Made USA*, Chicago 2010 Series 1, Karen Ryan



## Dubious progress

*Straw Dogs* brings together work by Hans Stofer, Karen Ryan, Jason Brooks and the Chapman Brothers. Titled via a book by philosopher John Gray, it looks at illusions of progress in relation to art and design. Ryan's new furniture collection, *Custom Made in England*, remakes discarded pieces with an eye either to luxury or necessity. In Hans Stofer's *Final Touch* series, everyday objects are given a 'flawless skin' of aluminium foil. Jason Brooks treats the line between high and low, reworking 20th-century amateur paintings, and the Chapmans alter anonymous Victorian portraits with masks or deformities. 'Straw Dogs forces us to examine our fascination with improving the look of our own image, surround and legacy,' say the organisers. [www.springprojects.co.uk](http://www.springprojects.co.uk)