**ELEANOR LAKELIN**

Eleanor Lakelin uses a lathe and carving tools to make vessels and sculptural forms in wood. Brought up in a small village in Mid-Wales, Lakelin taught in Europe and West Africa before her life-long love of wood compelled her to retrain as a furniture maker. She went on to work as a cabinet maker for ten years before developing her artistic practice through a series of masterclasses.

Having learnt to carve and sculpt wood using centuries-old tools, today Lakelin uses traditional and modern techniques to explore her fascination with the material. She says:

*‘I am interested in the way natural elements and processes layer and colour wood and how the passage of time is etched into the fibres of the material. I peel back bark to reveal the organic chaos that can exist in the material itself or build up layers of texture through carving and sandblasting. I use the vessel form and surface pattern to explore the layers and fissures between creation and decay, the erosion of nature and our relationship to the Earth.’*

The provenance of materials is of particular importance to Lakelin and she likes to share the story behind each piece of work. In order to create ethically and sustainably, she has made it her challenge to only use wood from trees felled in London or elsewhere in the British Isles.

**Born** 1960, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, Wales

**Education**

2011 Master-classes, various sculptors/carvers/wood-turners

2008 Lathe-turning Vessels, West Dean College, Sussex

1996 Furniture Design/Cabinet-Making, London Guildhall

**Awards**

2015 Grants for the Arts, Arts Council England  
2014 Nominee, Perrier-Jouet Arts Salon Prize

2011 Cockpit Arts / Worshipful Company of Turners Award

**Selected Exhibitions**

2016 Nature Lab, Design Miami/ Basel, Switzerland

Walpole Crafted, London Craft Week, Fortnum & Mason, London

Taste Contemporary Craft, Artmonte-carlo, Monaco

2015 Present & Collect, Contemporary Applied Arts, London Future Heritage by Corinne Julius, Decorex, London National Trust Commission, Duke of Wellington’s Tree, Kingston Lacy, Dorset  
 Slow Turning, Bluecoat Display Centre, Liverpool  
 RHS Chelsea Flower Show, London  
 London Craft Week: Cockpit Arts Open Studios, London  
 COLLECT, Saatchi Gallery: Sarah Myerscough Gallery, London  
2014 Twas the Night Before Christmas, Contemporary Applied Arts, London   
 Home Ground, Devon Guild of Craftsmen, Devon (and touring)

2014 Festival Exhibition, Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh The Carving of the Wood, Crafts Study Centre, Farnham Artisans Retreat, RHS Chelsea Flower Show, London Modern Craft Market, Heal’s, London  
 Redefining Handmade, CRAFT 14, London  
  
**Selected Publications**  
2016 ‘Meet the Design Stars of London Craft Week’, Talib Choudhry, The Telegraph, 5 May  
 ‘Experiments that Nurture Nature’, Grant Gibson, Crafts Magazine, May / June, Crafts Council

‘Celebrate Craft’, Michelle Ogundehin, Elle Decoration, May, Hearst UK,

2015 ‘Eleanor Lakelin Biogrophy: Between Creation and Decay’, Corinne Julius, Craft Arts International, September  
 ‘The Best of British Craftsmanship at Decorex’, Nicole Swengley, FT How to Spend It, 13 September ‘Goods’, Hole & Corner, September  
 ‘London Craft Week begins’ Henrietta Thompson, The Telegraph, Luxury, 6 May  
 ‘The Sustainable Design Book’ Rebecca Proctor, Laurence King  
2014 ‘Eleanor Lakelin / Maker Profile’ Country Living, October, Hearst UK  
 ‘30 Cool Crafters’ Sunday Times Home, Katrina Burrows, 5 February

**Collections**

The National Trust, Kingston Lacy, Dorset