

# FINANCIAL TIMES

Design

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## Collect fair 2026: 'Craft reminds us that good things are worth the wait'

Three hundred makers from around the world take tradition and twist it into something unexpected and beautiful



'Poor Cow — Illustrated Bottles Celebrating Inner City Life' by Claudette Forbes, porcelain, 2024; £1,300 each © Courtesy of the artist and Cynthia Corbett Gallery

**‘Intersect Series-Warp 1, Work 9’, by Margo Selby, 2025, silk, cotton and tencel; £4,950**

4/6



Courtesy Cynthia Corbett Gallery



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Is this a difficult time for craft? Perhaps, says TF Chan, director of contemporary craft and design fair Collect, which opens on February 27 at London's Somerset House. But where there are challenges, there are opportunities. "It is true that the wider art market is in a moment of change," he says, acknowledging a decline in sales. But, "In an age of decreasing attention spans and a culture of instant gratification, craft reminds us that good things are worth the wait."

In a multitude of fields and techniques, from straw marquetry to chainmail, more than 300 makers from around the globe twist tradition into something unfamiliar and new. Fourteen of the 40 galleries and arts organisations are exhibiting for the first time. "Looking at South America alone, we are exhibiting artists from Venezuela, Cuba, Colombia, Chile and Brazil," says Chan.

That breadth is impressive: ceramics alone range from the totemic human-sized vessels of Ghanaian artist Kobina Adusah, at Gallery Fumi, to the minute, feather-like porcelain elements of Ukrainian artist Valeriya Isyak's collages at Mia Karlova Galerie. Chan highlights Japanese cultural platform Wajoy, showing the radiantly glossy work of lacquer artists from Ishikawa, who have shown "remarkable resilience following the 2024 Noto earthquake".

"We're inundated with mass-manufactured stuff," adds Chan. Don't be seduced. "Have fewer, better objects, made with intention and able to stand the test of time."

*Collect 2026, Somerset House, London,  
February 27-March 1; [somersehouse.org.uk](https://somersehouse.org.uk)*

**@collectartfair is in today's @financialtimes!  
 Huge thanks to @lucywwatson @ft\_houseandhome**

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FTWeekend

14 February/15 February 2026

# A lot of bottle

Craft | At this year's Collect fair, artisans dare to twist tradition into the unexpected. It's the perfect foil for mass production and instant gratification, writes *Lucy Watson*

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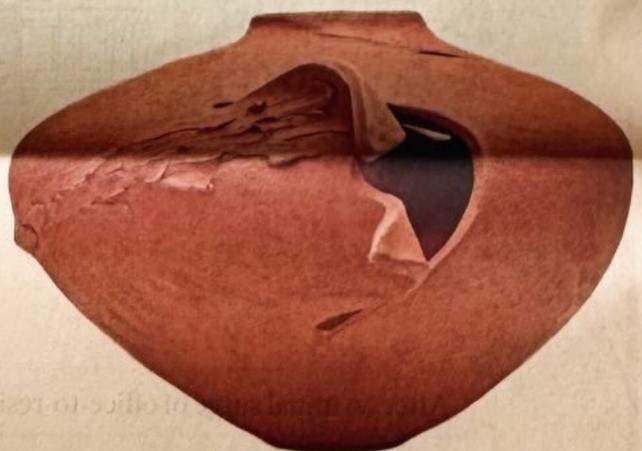
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Collect 2026, Somerset House, London, February 27-March 1; somerset-house.org.uk

Clockwise from right: 'The Shape of Absence', by Ruining Shi, 2020, silver-plated iron, silver leaf, £2,200; 'From my Grandparents' Treasure Trove. Dried Persimmon', by Minhee Kim, 2025, monofilament, wire, £2,500; 'Untitled (Elephants)', by Yoshihiro Watanabe, 2024, Japanese oak leaves, £1,000 each; 'Primus III', by Bisilla Noha, 2024, terracotta, £4,950

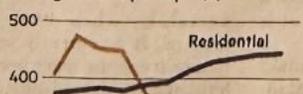


Above: 'Poor Cow – Illustrated Bottles Celebrating Inner City Life', by Claudette Forbes, 2024, porcelain, £1,500 each. Left: 'Obedient Objects – Chair', by Jingyi Li, 2025, vintage chair with handmade filet lace, £1,680  
 Cynthia Corbett Gallery, Jingyi Li/House of Bards by Sarabande

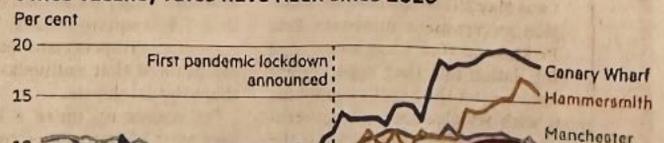
## Office politics

Continued from page 1

Residential rents in Reading are outpacing those for offices  
 Average values per sq ft (£)



Office vacancy rates have risen since 2020





**Above:**  
**'Poor Cow —**  
**Illustrated**  
**Bottles**  
**Celebrating**  
**Inner City Life',**  
**by Claudette**  
**Forbes, 2024,**  
**porcelain,**  
**£1,300 each.**  
**Left: 'Obedient**  
**Objects — Chair',**  
**by Jingyi Li,**  
**2025, vintage**  
**chair with**  
**handmade filet**  
**lace, £1,680**

Cynthia Corbett Gallery;  
Jingyi Li/House of Bandits  
by Sarabande