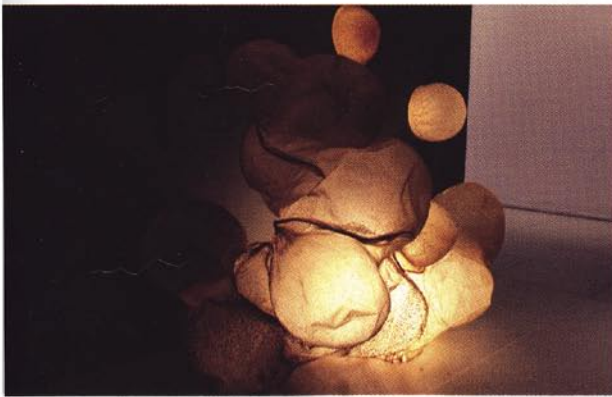


creative people in the frame

exposure



Scene and herd clockwise from top left London's Royal College of Art graduate Julia Lohmann sits on one of her "beloved" cows — benches crafted from foam and covered in a complete hide; Lohmann in her South London flat under one of her lights made from sewn-together sheep stomachs; another tripe light.

generation next

Two years ago, an exhibition at *Paul Smith's* Milan showroom launched the career of Dutch wunderkind Tord Boontje. Now the UK fashion designer is at it again, heralding the new breed of hot British design talent.

Text by Geraldine Cardozo. Portraits by Roger Rich.

Julia Lohmann

Bovine is not really how most women would like to be described, yet it's a word that sits happily with Julia Lohmann. The Royal College of Art graduate has become attached to a herd of cows that travelled with her to Italy recently for the Great Brits show organised by the London Design Museum and British Council, and held at the Milan HQ of world-famous British fashion designer Paul Smith.

"I am particularly fond of Belinda. She is so elegant, whereas Raoul is shorter and bulky, like a bull," says Lohmann of her cow-shaped benches,

sculpted from foam and covered in leather hide. "They look dead and alive at the same time." Lohmann (born in Germany, based in London) is not a vegetarian "although everyone asks that," but likes challenging people's delicate sensibilities. "People eat meat but don't want to see where it came from," says the designer, which is why she uses hides with scars and signs of the skins' former inhabitants. So why cows? The appeal is that they're so unappealing, she says. "Cows aren't cute or very popular... what do you have to do to an animal to make it cute?"

Perhaps more challenging is convincing shoppers to buy a light made of tripe. Her delicate creations made with dried sheep stomachs are a labour of love for Lohmann, who once made a ceiling of 50 sheep stomachs — "something I'll never do again," she vows. "The smell was terrible." Stench aside, Lohmann says the hardest part of her craft is saying goodbye to her cows. "I get attached," says the designer who sold her beloved Rosen to a French gallery. "I was sad I would never be able to see her or sit on her again."

Julia Lohmann, www.julialohmann.co.uk

"Perhaps more challenging is convincing shoppers to buy a lamp made of tripe."

