

## Joris Laarman Designs 3D Printed Chairs For Your Living Room

Written by JANEY DAVIES 

25  
Jun 2014



No industry has remained untouched by the technology of 3D printing, with innovative strides being made within health, fashion and even space. Now it appears that 3D printing is entering our homes, in the form of furniture, as renowned artist [Joris Laarman](#) has created the world's first 3D printed chairs.

Laarman is no stranger to 3D printing, and often uses this medium in his work. Laarman recently showcased some of his intricately designed 3D printed furniture pieces at an exhibition at the [Friedman Benda in New York City](#). Amongst the pieces are stunning elaborate benches created from metal as if the lines have been drawn in mid air.

Laarman used the innovative 3D metal MX3D printer to create the benches, as it uses stainless steel amongst others and has a patent-pending robotic 3D printer, which allows it to print in mid-air, quite unlike traditional 3D printers. Laarman was able to draw lines in space, which allowed him to fully use his imagination and create wonderfully complex designs.

Many of Laarman's other chairs and tables at the exhibition also are created with the help of 3D printing. He has been utilizing 3D printing to design and fabricate chairs since 2006.

Laarman however, doesn't rely solely on his MX3D-Metal for the design of all of the chairs in

Davies, Janey. "Joris Laarman Designs 3D Printed Chairs for your Living Room."  
Inside 3D Printing, June 25, 2014

**FRIEDMAN BENDA** 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001  
FRIEDMANBENDA.COM TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760

the exhibit. CNC systems, robotics, and parametric software also go into the equation when creating these works of art.

The star of the exhibition was undoubtedly the Maker Chairs; designed with the help of crowdsourcing.

Laarman talks about the inspiration behind the Maker Chair project: “We started by thinking, how can we make something relevant, for this time? We want to experiment with what’s possible with the technology right now, and maybe just beyond what’s possible.”

These chairs, when printed out are similar to jigsaw puzzle pieces, which you then piece together. There are some 202 3D pieces that can be printed on most 3D printers, and Laarman has made the design files available to anyone online via his [Bits and Parts](#) website, so even if you don’t have a printer, you can just take them to a printing shop and in ten days you’ll have your chair.

But because the chairs have so many small pieces, it is possible that if you only have a basic small printer you could still make the chair. Some of the chairs can be constructed with as little as 77 ABS plastic pieces, which is the same material used in Legos, and you simply snap them together, Laarman says: “It doesn’t have any glue and you can sit on it.”

Laarman reckons that the cost of the materials for the chairs will be about \$30, and says that the reason he made the blueprints available for people to download is that he wanted to take design and manufacturing back to the people. He says: “I don’t think in the future people will actually make their own chairs if its not super simple. But these are simple.”

As for whether anyone will actually download and make the chairs to actually sit on, or will they remain as artistic pieces, we’ll just have to wait and see. Laarman doesn’t appear to mind waiting: “This is definitely an experiment,” he says. “We’re still in the process of figuring out what’s going to work.”

For more of Mr. Laarman’s work, see [here](#).

Davies, Janey. “Joris Laarman Designs 3D Printed Chairs for your Living Room.”  
Inside 3D Printing, June 25, 2014

**FRIEDMAN BENDA** 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001  
FRIEDMANBENDA.COM TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760