

**For Immediate Release**

**Joris Laarman: Bits & Crafts**

***Design Miami/ Basel***

**Booth G31**

**June 14 – 19, 2016**



From left: *Dragon Bench*, 2014; *Microstructures Adaption Chair*, 2014; *Maker Chair (Hexagon)*, 2014

**New York, NY [March 1, 2016]** – Friedman Benda presents a survey of Joris Laarman's research in digital fabrication at *Design Miami/ Basel 2016*, held from June 14 to June 19. Laarman typically works in series, spending up to six years at a time creating an entire body of work. *Design Miami/ Basel* includes works from *Microstructures*, *Dragon Bench*, and the *Maker* series, as well as debuting a new series of screens. Joris Laarman Lab, established in 2004, has now grown to tackle almost every aspect of production, and for these thematic explorations, the lab blends cutting-edge technology with traditional means of making. This is Laarman's first gallery presentation in Europe, yet he has been the subject of museum exhibitions in Europe and the US.

*Microstructures* is conceptually based on 3D gradient patterning and explores intricate 3D printing in durable materials at the scale of furniture. Each work is made up of cells that vary in form, size or function. *Dragon Bench* reveals a breakthrough, wherein Laarman equips a robot arm with a welding machine that prints stainless steel mid-air, allowing him to draw complex curved lines and surfaces in space. Works in the *Maker* series are built from many parametric parts that are engineered to fit together exactly like a three-dimensional puzzle. Multiple materials (resin, solid woods, plastics, metals) and differentiated shapes (triangular, hexagonal, figurative, pixilated) respond to strength, weight and aesthetic necessities, while the multiplicity of small elements enable greater freedom and complexity of shape.

Parallel to these small-scale designs, Laarman has been commissioned to build a 3D printed footbridge over a canal in Amsterdam to open for public use in 2017. This follows the opening of Laarman's mid-career survey exhibition at the Groninger Museum in his native Netherlands. The retrospective will travel next to the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris from March 15 to July 3, 2017 and then to multiple locations in the US.

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### **About the Artist**

Joris Laarman was born in the Netherlands in 1979 and graduated Cum Laude from the Design Academy Eindhoven in 2003. While still in school he created the “Heatwave radiator,” a design widely-lauded and incorporated into many museum collections. In 2004, Laarman together with his partner Anita Star, founded Joris Laarman Lab. The lab, currently situated in Amsterdam, collaborates with craftsmen, scientists, and engineers on the possibilities of emerging technologies as CNC systems, 3D printing, robotics, and parametric software. His work has been exhibited internationally and can be found in many major public collections worldwide including MoMA, New York; V&A, London; Centre Pompidou, Paris. His Bone Chair and its prototype were added as the closing works of the 20<sup>th</sup> century collection of the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.

### **About Friedman Benda**

Friedman Benda is a gallery dedicated to presenting established and emerging designers who create historically significant work and are at the forefront of their practice. Founded in 2007, the gallery’s exhibitions and publications have played a vital role in the development of the contemporary design market and education, and take a comprehensive approach to work that intersects the fields of design, craft and art. Friedman Benda represents an international roster of designers spanning five continents and multiple generations.

For further information please visit [www.friedmanbenda.com](http://www.friedmanbenda.com)

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