

PRESS RELEASE:

Emerging designer Monika Kolarz joins Clerkenwell Design Week 2025 to showcase a series of joy-inspired objects.

A recent Bartlett graduate, Monika Kolarz, joins Clerkenwell Design Week to present a series of playfully designed objects. Monika is a Polish designer dedicated to bringing joy to the mundane interactions with our surroundings through everyday products and home decor pieces. With carefully crafted and well-considered design - no matter how small - she hopes to spark moments of joy and appreciation for the little things in life.

During her degrees in Architecture and Design for Manufacture, Monika developed a keen eye for detail and a passion for making. Her work takes advantage of advanced machining and traditional craft techniques alike, utilising them to suit a variety of design goals. Varying from CNC milling, ceramic slip, or aluminium casting, all the products are sustainably made in small batches by Monika in her London workshop.

With a passion for designing and making pieces that offer simple, clean lines whilst providing visual interest and complexity, Monika's design process often explores the union of juxtaposing design languages, turning conflicting elements into cohesive and impactful objects. Monika's recent project, the 'Squish' mirror, is an example of this approach, where contradictory design languages collide. Gentle curves that evoke softness and nature contrast against angular, sharp shapes that elicit a sense of danger, the interplay of which creates a captivating visual experience. Exposed mirror corners offer glimpses of the wall behind, adding a layer of playfulness and three-dimensionality.

In her other product, the 'Tic-Tac-Toe-Coasters', the coasters double as game pieces, encouraging interactivity and transforming a purely utilitarian product into a vessel for playful engagement with our surroundings. The child-like shapes of the coasters that associate with domesticity and warmth, are opposed against the industrial, cold look of aluminium and result in a balanced object that is equally utilitarian, frisky and decorative.

The 'Sparkle' wall sconce, created as part of a university project by Monika Kolarz and Mengting Liu, offers equally ambivalent influences. Associated with charm and joy, the sparkle shape was chosen to evoke warmth and liveliness, while the gentle curves and calm colour palette ensure the piece appears refined and elegant.

Through her work, Monika invites viewers to reconsider everyday objects as more than just functional items—she sees them as opportunities for interaction, surprise, and delight. Each object tells a story of balance and contradiction, where playfulness meets utility and precision.

All of the above products designed and made by Monika Kolarz will be available to view between 20-22nd May at the Clerkenwell Design Week 2025, in the *Platform* exhibition venue.

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Clerkenwell Design Week, across EC1 London

20 – 22 May 2025

Website: clerkenwelldesignweek.com

Instagram: [@clerkenwelldesignweek](https://www.instagram.com/clerkenwelldesignweek)

Twitter: [@cdwfestival](https://twitter.com/cdwfestival)

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Hashtag: #CDW2025

Press registration: <https://www.clerkenwelldesignweek.com/pr-registration>

Visiting information:

- Visitors can register for their FREE festival passes now – <https://www.clerkenwelldesignweek.com/2025-registration>
- All visitors require a visitor badge to access the exhibition venues and showroom events.

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