

MEET THE MAKER

SPIN A YARN

Kate Jenkins reimagines the trattoria in woollen form

BY HANNAH BANKS-WALKER



There are dozens of Italian restaurants in London's Soho, but none has ever resembled 'Kate's Knitalian'. An immersive exhibition conceived by the British textile artist Kate Jenkins, it sees Air Contemporary Gallery transformed into a pseudo-restaurant and delicatessen. Tables will be laid with a glorious feast: strings of salami, plump pasta, perfect Calabrian onions – only here, they're all crafted from wool.

'I've always worked on projects that relate to food, but with a sense of humour,' says Jenkins, who has been making art for more than two decades. With the help of a six-strong team – and encouraged by her Milanese partner – she has knitted thousands of pieces for the display. Many of these will be for sale, along with some of the vintage tables, chairs and bespoke tiles that furnish the space as part of Jenkins' collaboration with fellow independent artists and makers.

The show is the latest in a series of high-profile commissions Jenkins has taken on for clients including Marc Jacobs, Missoni and, most recently, Hermès, for which she designed the windows of the new flagship store on New Bond Street. Offering an irreverent take on the house's equestrian ties, the artist concocted a playful 'hooficure' bar (a spa for horses) featuring a chandelier embellished with hundreds of carrots – knitted, of course.

For Jenkins, any project is an opportunity to create the most joyful pieces possible: 'I want to elevate British crafts and make them more appreciated.' 'Kate's Knitalian' will run from 1 November until 5 December at the Air Contemporary Gallery (air-contemporary.com).



Designs for
'Kate's Knitalian'



From top: serving set,
£250; bowl, £765;
champagne cooler,
£700, all L'Objet x
Jessica McCormack

HOMEWARE

HIDDEN DEPTHS

Set your table with a trove
of sparkling treasures

The ocean's fluid forms have long inspired the jeweller Jessica McCormack, whose past collections have featured a diamond-encrusted starfish and conch-shell bangles. Now, she has collaborated with L'Objet (uk.l-objet.com) to bring marine motifs into the home with a whimsical yet refined selection of sculptural serveware: champagne and ice buckets, a caviar dish and a shell-shaped platter made from fine bisque porcelain. 'I found that jewellery and homeware are connected through the way we experience and interact with each as objects,' McCormack explains, 'whether that's how a ring sits on the finger or how a bowl feels in your hands.'