



# The Art of the Game



# Purling - The Art of the Game

New exhibition “The Art of the Game” celebrates the art of chess in London this October. Purling presents new display showcasing the fusion of art and strategy, through exquisite art chess sets by renowned artists such as Sophie Matisse and Sickboy.

This autumn, luxury games company Purling is adding a splash of colour to London’s energetic art scene, as they present The Art of the Game – an inspiring new exhibition at 67 York Street Gallery in Marylebone, celebrating the unique fusion of art and strategy through exquisite art chess sets.

Purling has always aimed to reinvent traditional games, infusing them with colour, art, and craftsmanship. Their luxurious chess sets, crafted from materials such as ebony, boxwood, maple, and alabaster, and finished with Italian Nappa leather base felts embossed in 18-carat gold, stand as a testament to their commitment to quality and aesthetic excellence.

The Art of the Game showcases not only these stunning chess sets but also includes a selection of paintings and drawings by participating artists, including Sophie Matisse – great-granddaughter of the renowned impressionist Henri Matisse, Bristol-born street artist Sickboy, and Polish-born artist Gosia Łapsa-Malawska, also Creative Director of Purling, whose works are inspired by the ‘Young Polish Movement’ and Japanese aestheticism. This unique blend of playable art pieces and visual art highlights Purling’s dedication to creating games that are both visually captivating and enjoyable to play.

Zsoka Gaal, Hungarian Woman International Master (WIM) of chess, is the official Brand Ambassador for Purling and will be attending the exhibition opening, alongside her trainer, Grandmaster Gabor Papp. Zsoka won the title of Woman International Master in 2021 at the age of 14 years old and is a legend in the chess world.

With The Art of the Game, Purling continues to elevate the world of games through artistry and craftsmanship and expand upon their mission to bring traditional games to life in new and beautiful ways. This extraordinary exhibition is a must-see experience for all art lovers, chess players, Londoners, and those with a taste for the finer things in life.

Creative Director of Purling Gosia Łapsa-Malawska, says: “We are very excited to showcase a stunning array of art chess sets at York Street Gallery this autumn. Games are an art form about choices and consequences, actions and outcomes, about discovering beauty and pleasure, art and chess are about looking, seeing, interpreting the visual information around us. Discovering pure beauty in the sound of a chess piece being placed on a board and moved across its smooth surface.”

The Art of the Game will be taking place at:  
67 York Street Gallery, 67A York Street, London, W1H 1QB,  
gallery opening hours: Monday-Saturday, 11-18.  
For further info, please visit Purling’s website: [www.purling.com](http://www.purling.com)

# Willum Morsch Dazzle Down Chess Set



Willum Morsch, Dazzle Dawn art chess set, 55x55cm, £10000

Willum Morsch is a Dutch artist, illustrator and graphic designer based in Amsterdam. He mainly works in watercolour and digital media. As someone who is a chess enthusiast, he has created artworks on this theme.

Dazzle Dawn is the new feature taking the narrative of ‘hiding in plain sight’ a step beyond normal chess sets. This concept adds another dimension to this chess set and an opportunity for players to create - dazzling strategies. ‘Hiding in plain sight’ was the idea behind dazzle camouflage patterns, invented by British artist Norman Wilkinson during World War I to protect ships from being attacked: their colour scheme made it difficult for the enemy to recognise and gauge distances. Dazzle Dawn is the new feature taking the narrative of ‘hiding in plain sight’ a step beyond normal chess sets. This concept adds another dimension to this chess set and an opportunity for players to create - dazzling strategies. ‘Hiding in plain sight’ was the idea behind dazzle camouflage patterns, invented by British artist Norman Wilkinson during World War I to protect ships from being attacked: their colour scheme made it difficult for the enemy to recognise and gauge distances.





Gosia Łapsa-Malawska, Universal Memory II, oil on linen canvas, 100x70cm, £2200



Eleni Maragaki, linocut on paper, 45x45cm, £240





Carne Griffiths, Another Place, limited edition print, 50x70cm, (from sold out edition), £700



Daniela Raychtev, So I Can, oil and enamel on canvas, 71 x 82cm, framed, £4200



Sickboy

Penthouse and Pavement



Sickboy, Metamorphosis, painting on drafting film, signed, 50x70cm, £1850



Sickboy, Penthouse and Pavement, art chess set, 55x55cm, £12000



# Sickboy

## Table of Contents Chess Set



Sickboy, limited edition chess set, Table of Contents, 55x55cm, £4500

Sickboy Editions is recreated from the original artwork "Table of Contents" by Sickboy. A limited edition of 25 sets. Capturing the same vivid & bold design from the original artwork, Editions features the distinctive and imaginative style of Bristol born street artist Sickboy. The chess board painted, printed and hand finished in England, measures 55cm x 55cm and has a stunning gloss lacquer finish, showcasing the depth of detail within the design. The chess pieces from Purling's Bold series are made of Boxwood, a hardwood hand turned and carved by our artisan craftsman and are hand painted and lacquered in London, receiving a total of 6 layers of paint & lacquer and feature our Italian Napa leather base felt with the Purling logo embossed in 18 carat gold. for a deeply satisfying & tactile finish. Each set contains four queens for effortless pawn promotion. The Sickboy Editions chess set is beautifully presented in Purling branded luxury packaging. We hold 1 item of this set in stock, for immediate shipping. Limited stock held, also available - made to order (approx 8 weeks).

# Carne Griffiths

## Water, Air, Earth & Fire Chess Set



Carne Griffiths, Water, Air, Earth & Fire Art Chess Set, 55x55cm, £10000

Carne Griffiths is a British artist and designer who has worked in fashion, theatre, film. Specialising in painting distinctive, delicately rendered artworks using tea, alcohol and ink. 'I was so excited to create this board for Purling. Creating this set was a real labour of love, there is something very precious about holding and creating each chess piece and giving it an individual identity.' I have a love for antique items and craftsmanship which I like to pair with my other passion for spontaneity and chaos. I wanted my board and pieces to keep the beautiful elements of wood grain by staining and dyeing with tea, ink & alcohols to create each item.'

Carne Griffiths

Using materials such as teas and alcohols I began by dip dyeing and staining the pieces in tea and ink, giving them two distinct sides which related to the four elements, Water and air or wind for one side and earth and fire for the other. The board was created by throwing liquids onto the wood and tipping the board to allow the liquids to find their random flow. I then picked out these elements by drawing on the board with fountain pen ink and in the same way continued this flow onto the hand carved pieces.



# Sophie Matisse Alice In Wonderland Chess Set



Sophie Matisse, Alice in Wonderland Art Chess set, 55x55cm £12000

Sophie Matisse is an internationally exhibiting artist represented by Francis Naumann Fine Art in New York. She is the great granddaughter of Henri Matisse and the step-granddaughter of Marcel Duchamp.

‘This Alice in Wonderland inspired chess set with its candy-like colours were a lot of fun to work with. Keeping even just an air of playfulness in any battle I think is essential for self-preservation! Some of the best solutions are the simplest, a useful reminder, that even just a little magical thinking can not only save your skin, but also your soul.’

Sophie Matisse

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# Khamama Noctua Chess Set



Khamama, Noctua Art Chess Set, real butterfly wings, mahogany, 55x55cm, £25000

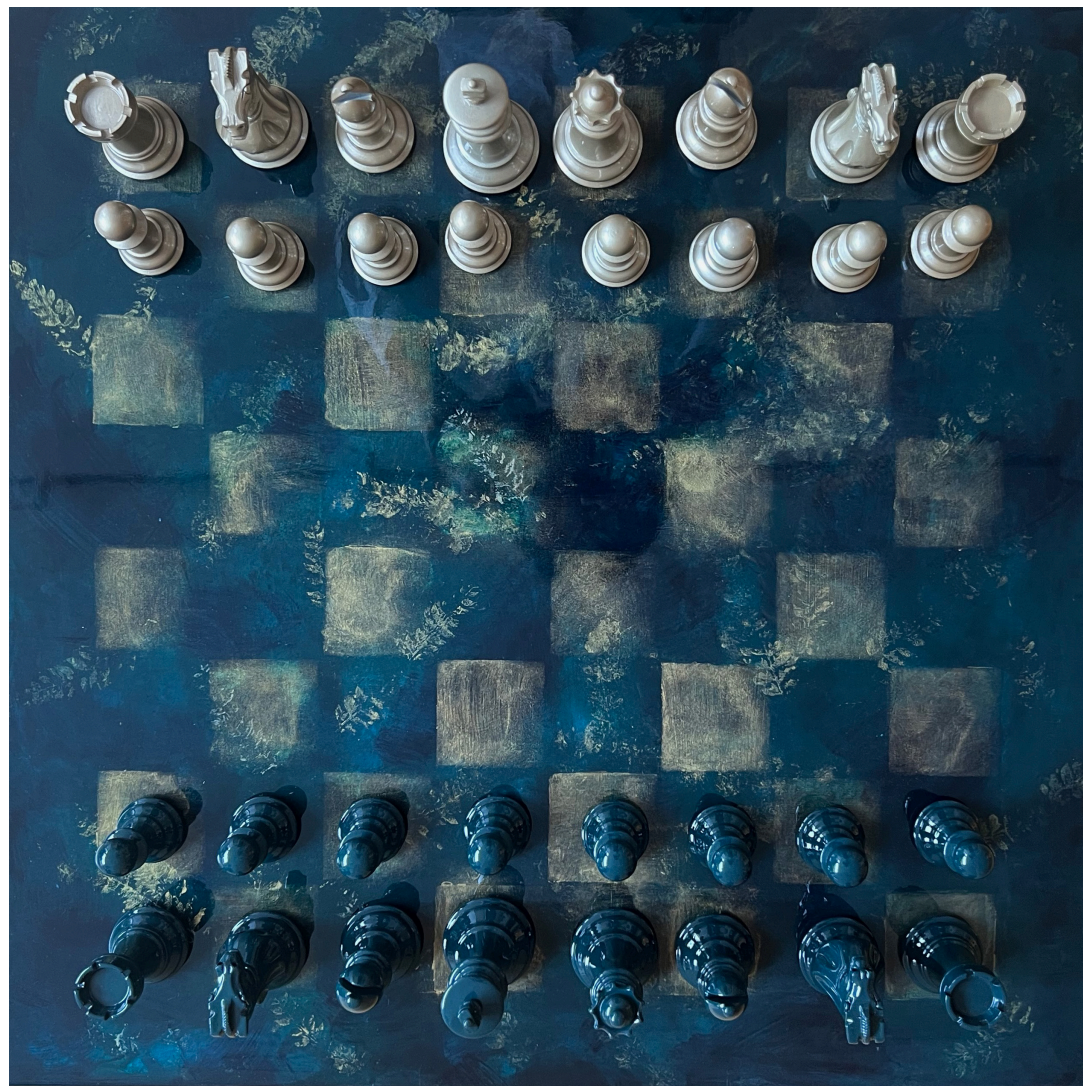
“Haute Art de Papillon” is the creation of art from butterfly wings. Due to the tonal contrasts and varying patterns on the upper and reverse of the wings, both the dark and the light squares are made from the wings of the same species. The delicate surface is protected with a museum-grade anti-reflective & UV panel. The chessboard is made with a striped Ebony Macassar Amara veneer. The KHAMAMA ‘Noctua’ features butterfly wings of the species *Caligo atreus*, also called the yellow-edged giant owl, due to its great wing span. The species is native to Middle America from Mexico to Peru. The wings used for this art work are from a sustainable butterfly farm and are only harvested, after natural death has occurred. The first word from the name of this butterfly *Caligo* is the Latin word for darkness, which refers to the fact that this butterfly species only flies at night. The second word *Atreus* is ancient Greek and means fearless. In Greek mythology, *Atreus* was the king of Mycenae in the Peloponnese and the father of *Agamemnon* and *Menelaus*. The two brothers started the famous Trojan war by raising a fleet of a thousand ships and going to Troy to secure the return of *Helen*, the wife of king *Menelaus* and world’s most beautiful woman.



# Gosia Łapsa-Malawska Secret Garden II

Secret Garden Art Chess Set - By Gosia Łapsa-Malawska Inspired by the classic novel - 'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett, the creation reflects the transience of time of a forgotten garden. Evoking cracked stones, moss covered walls and the mass entanglement of overgrown flora, Secret Garden breathes life into faded beauty, encapsulating imperfections and the endless spirit of carefree play, inviting players to engage in strategic battle amidst the beauty of minimalistic reminiscence.

The board - measuring 55cm x 55cm is hand painted, lacquered and receives several layers of polishing to achieve a wonderful lustre and is encased in a hand-cast matte satin steel frame. Paired with Purling Bold chess pieces - hand carved Boxwood in Staunton inspired design and featuring Purling's unique Knight design, the pieces are triple weighted receiving two layers of base-coat primer, two layers of high-gloss paint and two layers of crystal-clear lacquer. The Colours - Forgotten Fountain & Windy Nights romantically intertwine with the board and are completed with Italian Napa leather base felts featuring The Purling logo embossed in 18 carat gold. Presented in Purling branded luxury packaging, Secret Garden Art Chess is one of a kind and available to purchase now.



Gosia Łapsa-Malawska, Secret Garden II, art chess set, 55x55cm, £12000

# Gosia Łapsa-Malawska Secret Garden - limited edition



Gosia Łapsa-Malawska, limited edition chess set, 45x45cm, £4500

Inspired by the classic novel - 'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett, the creation reflects the transience of time of a forgotten garden. Evoking cracked stones, moss covered walls and the mass entanglement of overgrown flora, Secret Garden breathes life into faded beauty, encapsulating imperfections and the endless spirit of carefree play, inviting players to engage in strategic battle amidst the beauty of minimalistic reminiscence. Secret Garden Art Chess Set - By Gosia Łapsa-Malawska Inspired by the classic novel - 'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett, the creation reflects the transience of time of a forgotten garden. Evoking cracked stones, moss covered walls and the mass entanglement of overgrown flora, Secret Garden breathes life into faded beauty, encapsulating imperfections and the endless spirit of carefree play, inviting players to engage in strategic battle amidst the beauty of minimalistic reminiscence.

Secret Garden - limited edition, is recreated from the original work 'Secret Garden' by Gosia Łapsa-Malawska. The chess board surface is digitally printed, hand-painted and polished over several days, to create a wonderful lustre. Affixed to the reverse of the board is a sub-frame in coordinating colour for which to display and play upon a table top or to be hung upon a wall as a modernistic art piece. The playing board measures 45cm x 45cm x 1.9cm and the subframe has a depth of 2.4cm. Paired with Purling Bold chess pieces in colours - Baltic and Outer Space, the pieces are machine and hand-carved from Boxwood in Staunton inspired design and feature the exclusive Purling Knight design. Triple weighted, hand-painted and lacquered with six layers, each piece is completed with an Italian Nappa leather base felt, featuring the Purling logo embossed in 18 carat gold. Presented in Purling branded packaging, Secret Garden - limited edition is available to order now.



# Lhouette

## More Or Less II (Eyes) Chess Set



Lhouette, More or Less (Eyes), art chess set, 60x60cm, £10000

A major characteristic of Lhouette's work is a striking binary between old and new, the raw and the refined. Juxtaposing both street art-style spray painted stencilled motifs and fine gold leaf work. 'I've always enjoyed working with interesting items and materials. The chance to design a chess set really appealed, in terms of how I relay my style and ideas into a functioning board. Duality of an item is exciting for me especially if a canvas had a previous use (many of my canvases are industrial throughout). The premise of the design is dual purpose, to sit as a painting hung on a wall, or used as a playing chess set. My vision was to create and scream attention through my raw and refined contrasting and pop Maximalism.'

Lhouette

# Eleni Maragaki

## Waves of Symmetry

'Waves of Symmetry' is a collection of hand-carved landscape fragments depicting isolated segments of a turbulent seascape. Inspired by the power found in the system of natural structures, it aims to transcend the immense non-organic flows of life that constitute the landscape. Each element is set against the strict perfection and precision of the grid, creating a cohesive pattern where every square presents a unique design. Through a series of repetitive, small carvings, 'Waves of Symmetry' encompasses the ever-lasting and ever-evolving nature of the sea, highlighting the contrast between natural chaos and structured order.



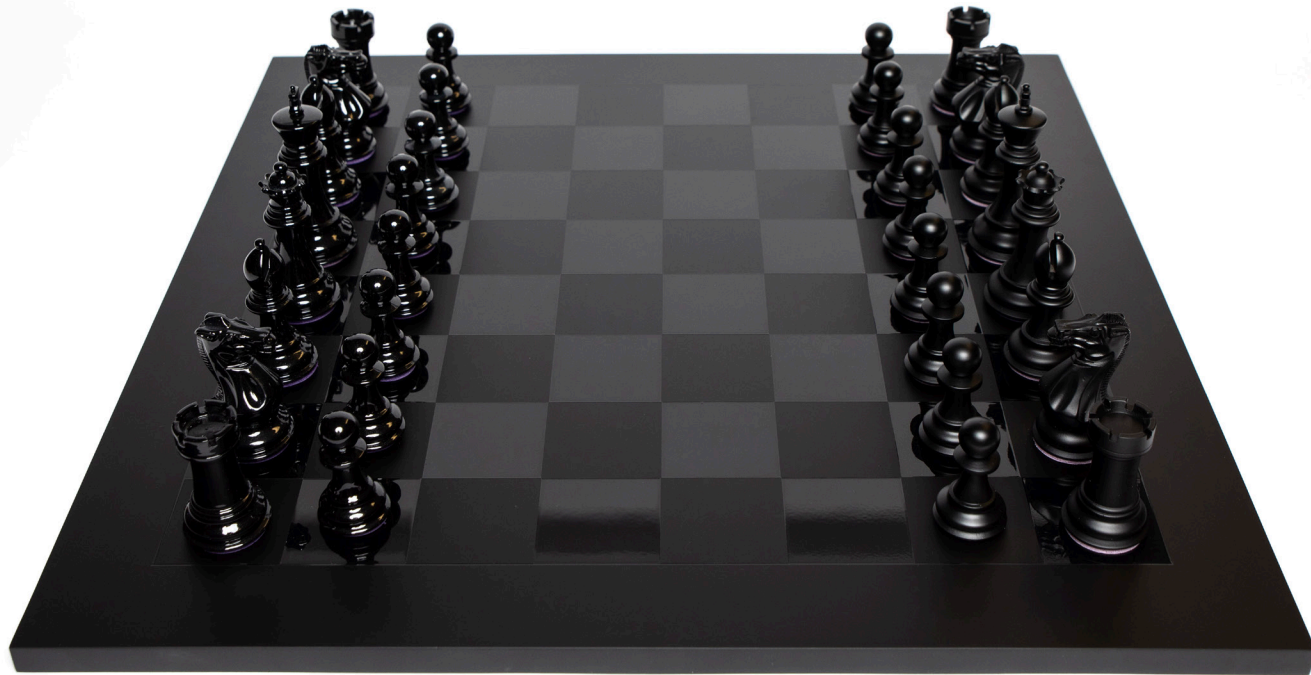
Eleni Maragaki, art chess set, 55x55cm, £12000



# Midnight Match

## Black / Black

### Gosia Łapsa-Malawska



Midnight Match limited edition chess set, £5500

Envisioned by Purling Creative Director – Gosia Łapsa-Malawska, Midnight Match is inspired by both the work 'In Praise of Shadows' by Yuniichiro Tanizaki - considered to be one of the most prominent figures in modern Japanese literature and Vantablack – 'The Blackest of Blacks' by Anish Kapoor – the world famous British Indian Artist. A fusion of matt & gloss black exudes a seamless, striking, and bold ultra statement of luxury with clean lines of liquidity, mesmerising the beholder with its deep, dark velvetiness of desire and power.

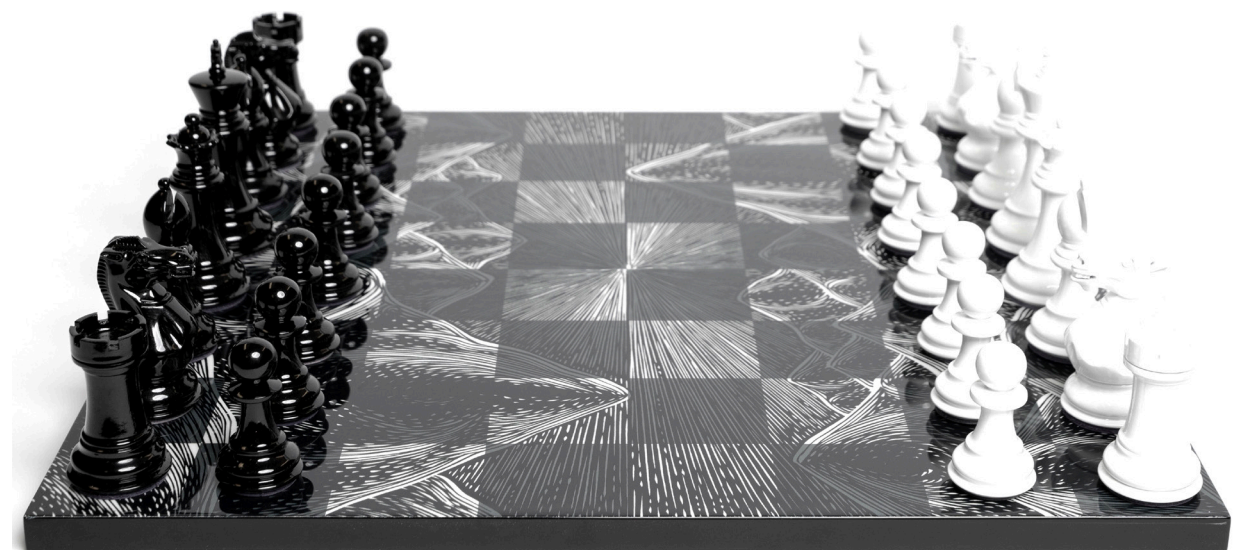
Wherever played or admired, Midnight Match offers an immersive experience, a world where the shades and shadows play their own game passionately and the chess game comes to life.

A fusion of matte & gloss blacks exudes a seamless, striking, and bold ultra statement of luxury with clean lines of liquidity, mesmerising the beholder with its deep, dark velvetiness of desire and power. Wherever played or admired, Midnight Match offers an immersive experience, a world where the shades and shadows play their own game passionately and the chess game comes to life. Created with a mix of specialised paints, the board incorporates up to eight layers of hand painting & polishing over several days to produce an exquisite finish that conveys the most dramatic and amazing aesthetic. The chessboard measuring 55cm x 55cm is paired with Purling Bold Boxwood hand-carved chess pieces. Inspired by Staunton design and featuring Purling's unique Knight design. Both sides of the pieces are coated with two layers of base-coat primer, with one side receiving two layers of high-gloss paint, finished with two layers of crystal-clear lacquer and the opposing side – two layers of toughened matt paint, to produce a wonderfully silky finish. Triple weighted, the pieces are completed with Italian Napa leather base felts, featuring the Purling logo embossed in 18 carat gold. Presented in Purling branded luxury packaging.

# Eleni Maragaki

## Landscape Seen From Everywhere

### Chess Set



limited edition chess set, £4500

The Landscape Seen from Everywhere aims to transcend the power of the natural, as a meeting point between cosmic order and disorder. The design is inspired by Mediterranean nature and lacks the human presence, representing the feeling of wilderness and solitude. The duality of perspectives provides a space where two players each hold their own distinct view of the game they are about to engage in.

Eleni Maragaki is a visual artist born in Athens, Greece and a member of The Royal Society of Sculptors. She earned a degree in Painting from The Athens School of Fine Arts (2013-2018) and a Master of Fine Arts from Central Saint Martins, UAL (2020-2022), receiving the Mona Hatoum Bursaries Award. Eleni's works have shown in numerous exhibitions, including a screening at LUX Moving Image (London), a group show at The Art Station - Dubulti (Latvia), and the Shijiazhuang Youth Art Biennale - Hebei (China).

In 2023, she was the winner of the Tate Christmas Card competition, The Muse Gallery Residency Award, and a finalist for The First Plinth Public Art Award. One of Eleni's latest projects was a public commission from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation to create a light installation. Her work is focused on the exploration of the meeting points between urban construction and the natural environment.



# Daniela Raytchev Becoming Chess Set



Daniela Raytchev, Becoming art chess set, 55x55cm, £10000

'Becoming' is a reflection on personal growth and development. Embellished with gold leaf – symbolic of the preciousness of our our experience, marks and scars, are what make us who we are & are to be cherished. Juxtaposing Swarovski crystals on white and spikes on black pieces, highlights opposite spectrums such as light vs dark & fluid vs structured, all within one's character and personality. A person can sway between rigid routines, perceptions of right and wrong, and loose structures and fluid growth. Each part is equally important and enables us to uncover different layers of who we are. The chess set is embellished with gold leaf – symbolic of the preciousness of our our experience, marks and scars, as they are what make us who we are. They can be cherished. My chess set also juxtaposes Swarovski crystals on white and spikes on black pieces, highlighting the opposite spectrums such as light vs dark(shadow) / fluid vs structured, all within one's character and personality.

# Leonardo Frigo Untitled III Chess Set



Leonardo Frigo, limited editions chess Set, 55x55cm, £4500

Leonardo Frigo Editions, recreated from the original artwork "Untitled III", by Leonardo Frigo. Limited edition of 25. Capturing the same meticulous design from the original work, Editions features the inimitable and defining style of Leonardo. The chess board painted, printed and hand finished in England, measures approx 55cm x 55cm and has a beautiful gloss lacquer, showcasing the depth of detail within the design. The chess pieces from Purling's Heritage collection in hardwoods - Ebony & Boxwood are based on Staunton design, featuring Purling's unique knight design and completed with Italian Nappa leather base felts, featuring the Purling logo embossed in 18 carat gold. Each set contains 4 Queens for effortless pawn promotion. The chess set is beautifully presented in Purling branded luxury packaging. Leonardo Frigo Editions, will be limited to a recreation of 25 sets. We hold two sets of this item in stock, for immediate shipping. Limited stock held, also available - made to order (approx 8 weeks).



# Rob McCarthy Pondus Magnetic Chess set



Robert McCarthy, Pondus, limited edition magnetic chess set, 45x45cm, £4000



limited edition chess set with bold pieces, 45x45cm, £4500 (bold and magnetic pieces £5000)

Editions - Rob McCarthy, recreated from Rob's original work - Pondus - Digitally printed, hand-painted and hand finished, containing a metal plate beneath the playing surface. The chess/checkers pieces are carved Boxwood, hand painted, digitally printed and contain magnetic inserts are completed with an Italian Napa leather base felt featuring the Purling logo embossed in 18 carat gold. The board can be displayed for play on a table top or hung on a wall via a connected frame on the reverse.

The chess board measures 45cm x 45cm and has a metallic layer inserted beneath the surface, and is digitally printed, hand-painted, lacquered and polished to deliver a wonderful lustre. The machine turned & hand carved Boxwood chess/checker pieces contain magnetic inserts and are hand-painted, printed and completed with Italian Napa leather base felts, with the Purling logo embossed in 18 carat gold. The board can be displayed for play on a table-top or can be hung on a wall to create the most dramatic and conversation art piece and game. Pondus issued to challenge & delight all chess enthusiasts and art lovers alike - encouraging vivid conversation whilst tempting passers-by to make a move. Presented in Purling branded packaging.

Limited stock held, also available - Made to order (approx 8-10 weeks).



# Backgammon- Swallowtail limited edition

Crafted in American Walnut, this beautiful art editions backgammon set features graphite drawing of swallowtail (Papilio machaon) by artist Louisa Crispin digitally printed on aluminum Dibond, and layered with gloss and matt lacquer.

Hand-made in England, each set is meticulously and lovingly crafted over several days to produce a game that is beautifully sleek in finish - rich in desire and decidedly luxurious.

The checker playing pieces are hand-made from Boxwood, digitally printed and hand painted, lacquered and polished and are finished with an Italian Nappa leather base felt, featuring the Purling logo embossed in 18 carat gold. The set is completed with an American Walnut dice shaker with polished brass trim, precision laser cut dice and large ivory resin doubling cube, which are housed in a velvet drawstring pouch.

The American Walnut casing measures 52cm x 67cm x 4cm (open) and 52cm x 33.5cm x 8cm (closed).

Art Editions backgammon is presented in Purling branded luxury packaging. Limited edition of 20.

limited edition backgammon £3000

