

For Immediate Release

Faye Toogood
Assemblage 5
February 23 – April 15, 2017



Solitaire/Moon, 2016

New York, NY [November 11, 2016] Friedman Benda is pleased to announce *Assemblage 5*, Faye Toogood's first solo exhibition with the gallery and in the United States.

Faye Toogood's *Assemblage 5* takes on a pantheistic tone, tapping into age-old animist notions of the elements water, earth and moon. Lithium-barium crystal, cob composite, and silver nitrate bronze personify the nature of these elements and mark a trio of firsts in Toogood's material language. The British designer's signature explorations of geometry and form are visible throughout.

Inspired by primitive elements and archetypes, works in this series draw imagery from cups, pews, spoons, and beads. *Spoon Chairs* and *Pew Benches* build on and transmute the reassuringly chunky forms of Toogood's *Roly-Poly* furniture designs. The iconic *Element Table* is transformed into a pair of molded pieces that play with negative space, wherein shaped voids suggest the missing polyhedrons of earlier collections. A series of *Cup Stools* and *Side Tables*

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upend conventional thought about seating and the drinking vessel. Sculptural archaic relics, such as a hand-formed, oversized solitaire game and wearable tapestries, evoke the naïve abstraction of parietal art and reinforce the strong spiritual character of *Assemblage 5*.

About Faye Toogood

Faye Toogood was born in the UK in 1977 and graduated with a BA in the History of Art in 1998 from Bristol University. She founded her multi-disciplinary furniture, product, interior and clothing design studio in 2008. In 2014, the Denver Art Museum acquired Toogood's Roly-Poly Chair for their permanent collection. Toogood's work is featured in *Design Currents* at the Philadelphia Museum of Art through March 12, 2017. Faye Toogood lives and works in London.

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 visit www.friedmanbenda.com

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