

SIDE GALLERY

CARSTEN IN DER ELST



Graywacke Offcut Chair #18.
From *Graywacke Offcut Series*.
Manufactured by Carsten in der Elst.
Exclusively for SIDE.
Germany, 2023.
Graywacke stone, felt.

Measurements
40 x 45 x 73,5h cm
15,7 x 17,7 x 29h cm

Hight Seat: 43,5 cm | 17,1 in

Provenance
Cologne, Germany.

Exhibitions
Sourcing Stone | 24th March - 21st April 2023,
Side Gallery, Barcelona.

Concept

Making industrial materials hybrid has been on in der Elst's agenda since his studies. The *Graywacke Offcut series* is a continuation of the designer's fieldwork carried out at a local sandstone quarry, Lindlar, during his graduation project. Always seeking the irregular in the regular, enormous piles of discarded sandstone offcuts became the sole subject for the designer's work. *Graywacke*, the name of the particular sandstone found at Lindlar, is commonly used for the manufacturing of pavement stones, and for building materials in the NRW region of Germany. When producing stones for sidewalks for example, a slab of Graywacke is cut in a grid like shape. All the sides of the slab, know as the "crust", are discarded as industrial by-product, and thrown to the side, creating large piles of disused stone. Due to this grid cut, the crust-pieces with a natural exterior have dimensionally equal properties, which allows them to be preserved as unique building blocks -and the basis for Carsten in der Elst Graywacke furniture project.

Biography

The essence of materials is constantly sought in the work of the German designer **Carsten in der Elst** (b. 1992 Düsseldorf). Based in Cologne, he finished his Design studies in 2020 and immediately started his studio practice by continuing his graduation project *Heavy Duty*. For his first project, *Heavy Duty*, the designer recalled how the squander of energy and natural materials dedicated to industrial processes mostly serve to end up producing waste matter. *Soft Works* was a continuation of his first project, using the same concept but different elements, such as cork, silicone and leftover mattresses. In der Elst is dedicated to finding the locations and origins of materials, in order to tame them whilst preserving their essence and natural processes. Both projects have been exhibited at the 3 Days of Design festival in Copenhagen. Now, the designer is focusing on his *Graywacke Offcut* project, creating a series in which each piece is embodied with the same Graywacke stone, but finds its own personality, through form and structure.