

Queer made

Cologne, 26 - 31 October 2026

QUEER MADE

26.–31. October 2026

Call for Designers & Artists

A NEW CULTURAL PLATFORM IN FORMATION

QUEER MADE is a new curatorial platform within Design Season Cologne
<https://designseasoncologne.com>

Curated by Rodrigo Vairinhos / NEO Design Studios, Köln

QUEER MADE emerges as the first edition of a long-term platform for contemporary queer-inspired design, art, and spatial practice.

Still in formation — but with a clear perspective:
a recurring cultural structure within the European design landscape.

QUEER MADE IS NOT A THEME. IT IS A METHOD OF SEEING.

QUEER MADE understands design as a stance — not as a category.

A way of rethinking perception, space, and identity.

At its core are works that do not merely represent queer perspectives, diversity, and social inclusion, but make them tangible through space, material, and presence.

We are looking for positions situated between:

- * design and art
- * object and installation
- * material and idea
- * body and space
- * social practice and speculative form

QUEER MADE is interested in works that:

- * challenge norms
- * redefine identity and belonging
- * subvert conventions
- * open new aesthetic and conceptual spaces
- * understand design as a cultural position

FORMAT

The first edition is intentionally small, intimate, and focused.

A reduced space without distraction — developed for closeness, stillness, and presence.

No overlap.

No trade fair aesthetic.

No visual competition.

Instead:

a focus on object, material, and atmosphere.

The exhibition is conceived as a spatial experience — not as an informational space.

A PLATFORM IN BECOMING

QUEER MADE is not a finished format.

It is a growing system.

A platform in formation, intended to establish itself long-term within Design Season Cologne and internationally.

Each edition expands:

- * community
- * discourse
- * international networking
- * visibility
- * cultural relevance

OPEN CALL

We invite designers and artists to submit works including:

- * existing works or series
- * new or unrealised concepts
- * installations or spatial interventions
- * experimental or conceptual works
- * collectible / limited design

SUBMISSION

- * 2–5 images / visualisations
- * short project description (150–200 words)
- * technical details (materials, dimensions, installation requirements)

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Deadline: **31 July 2026**

SELECTION CRITERIA

- * conceptual clarity
- * material and spatial quality
- * experimental approach
- * relevance to contemporary discourse
- * distinctive design language

TIMELINE

- Call Launch: now
- Deadline: 31 July 2026
- Selection / Feedback: August 2026
- Production / Preparation: August–September 2026
- Installation: October 2026
- Exhibition: 26–31 October 2026

FRAMEWORK

- Participation fee: approx. €300 (depending on size and number of works)
- Transport: organised by participants (DHL possible)
- Insurance: participant responsibility
- Sales: possible
- Installation: curatorially supported

LOCATION

Best Of Cologne
Schaafenstraße 12
50676 Cologne

<https://best-of-fetish.com>

The exhibition takes place in the heart of one of Cologne's culturally significant queer neighbourhoods.

FINAL STATEMENT

QUEER MADE is not a theme. QUEER MADE is a way of seeing.

A platform in becoming.

A cultural statement in formation.

A space for new perspectives in contemporary design.

Cologne

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