



## DKT ARTWORKS INTRODUCES SHOW-STOPPING ASAGAO TILE SYSTEM

DKT Artworks is a unique multidisciplinary team of imaginative and highly skilled artists, with studios in London and Prague, specialising in the design, production and installation of handcrafted, high-end bespoke decorative finishes and site-specific artworks since 1979.

Working with the most internationally-renowned interior designers and with the broadest range of styles and materials, DKT Artworks provides original and innovative solutions to its clients on the widest range of projects – bas-reliefs, sculptures, murals, trompe l'oeil, paint finishes, decorative designs, gilding, verreaux églomisé, antiqued mirrors, handcrafted mosaics, illuminated artworks, polished plaster – both in the UK and worldwide.

The company champions the continued relevance of traditional hand-produced arts and crafts within the contemporary interior environment, at the same time expanding into new territory with modern techniques and computer-based skills, and significantly broadening and enriching its repertoire.

Among these is DKT Artworks's Asagao modular tile system, designed and produced in its London studio. This innovative system creates dynamic pattern that can be cast in a number of materials and embellished in a variety of ways, making a stunning feature in a range of interior settings and projects.

The concept of the Asagao tiles came during the preparation of the Surface Design Show 2018, as a result of various internal discussions held toward the end of 2017 to decide how to best promote and combine the bespoke nature of DKT Artworks' creations with more money-efficient solutions.

This principle was applied to all the finishes selected and developed for DKT Artworks' stand. The team were looking for creative ideas and something really eye-catching to decorate an "empty" wall.

The initial basic graphic idea was developed by a joint effort of DKT Artworks' artists and project management team, and was then handed over to Eoin Ryan, one of DKT Artworks' artists, who developed the design further and into details. He first created the modular outlines of the flowers, in a shape that could be rotated a number of times and fit together to create a variety of layouts in any possible size. At the same

time, he also designed and carved two options for the inner area of the flowers. These were very organic, resulting in a product that looked less like tiles and more like modular decorative elements.

As the carving proceeded, the process involved more members of the DKT Artworks team. The original carving was then sent to Feathercast to take a number of moulds and then cast in Jesmonite. The reason behind the choice of this material lays on its versatility and compatibility with the gilding process whilst, at the same time, it is very resistant to damage.

Once the tiles were returned to DKT Artworks, they were passed onto the experienced gilding department, who completed the work on each individual tile.

Finally, they were mounted together on two interlocking boards, for ease of installation at the stand during the show, accomplishing the original task of creating an eye-catching decorative solution.

The principle behind the Asagao tiles' production method is relatively straightforward, and so is their installation, effectively contributing in keeping the price as low as possible. However, they also offer ample choice in terms of customisation: they can be cast in different materials and in different colours, and at the same time the inner carving itself can be modified to meet the client's tastes and to suit special requirements.

The type of finish used for the inner area can also vary (or there can be none at all) and the layout can be customised. The tiles can be cut to size, they can fill up the space fully or form a broken layout, they can follow geometric pattern but also be laid-out freely, without necessarily following a grid.

With regards to the name, the DKT Artworks team was inspired by and researched the type of flowers that looked close enough to the one carved, and it turned out that the Japanese Morning Glory flower – Asagao in the original language – was the closest match.

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