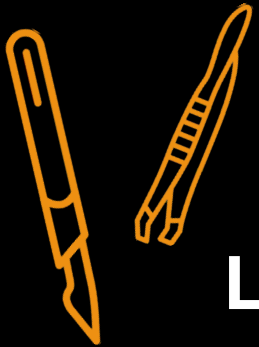


**BA (Hons) Cordwainers Fashion Bags and
Accessories: Product Design and Innovation**



Leather Marquetry (Intarsia)

Marquetry

Image Source –
ACE, Abstract Cabinet Marquetry
(November 2021) www.acemarquetry.co.uk



An ancient art form dating back to the 16th century, the name is derived from the French word for “**inlaid work**”.

Marquetry traditionally is the art of applying pieces of veneer (thin slices of wood) to a structure to form decorative patterns, designs or pictures.

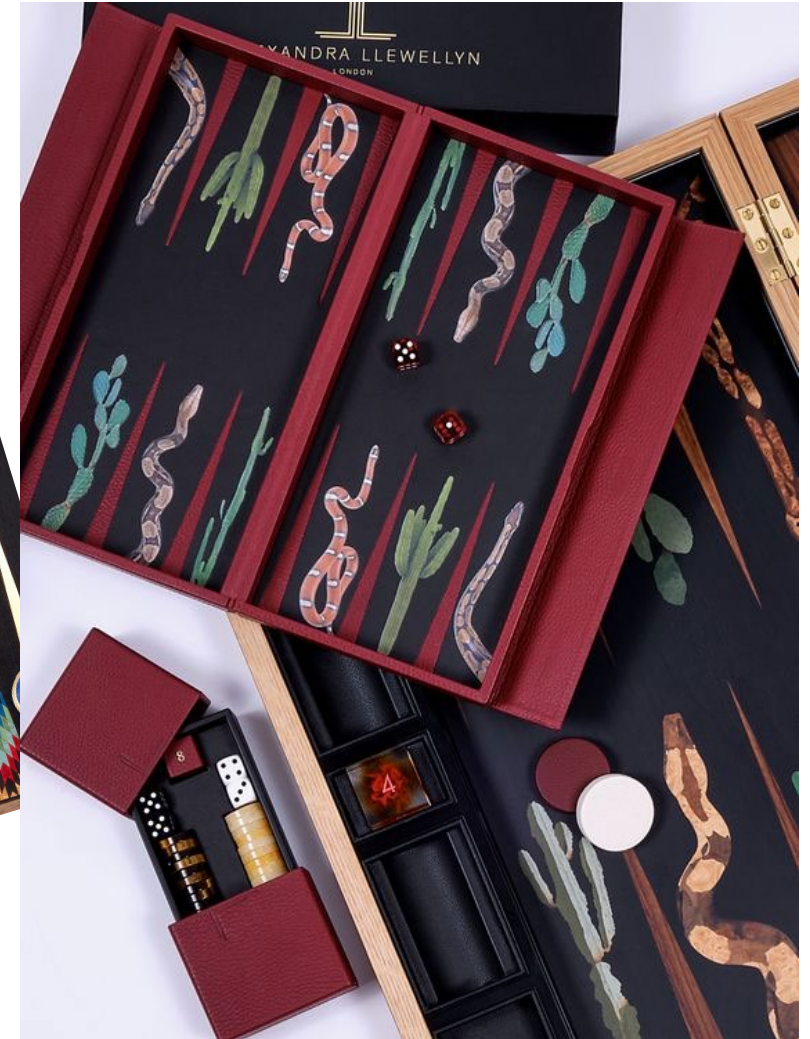
This form of decorative craft is still used to this day. Styles, designs and materials have varied, but the concept and technique are more or less the same.

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Examples of Marquetry

Images Source –
www.alexandralllewellyn.com
(October 2021)

Alexandra Llewellyn - home to the world's most exquisitely crafted backgammon boards, poker sets and custom board games.



ual:

India Mahdavi for Louis Vuitton



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www.architecturaldigest.com

ther Marquetry Masterclass

Marquetry (Non-Leather)

Artist **Bethan Laura Wood** (London based). **Hot rock landscape furniture**, a series extended from the super fake project. Laminate marquetry, coloured MDF, powder coated steel, satin brushed brass.



ual:

www.bethanlaurawood.com



Marquetry examples... (Non-Leather)

Marquetry can be created using a variety of materials, or mixing different materials...

Marquetry material made from the colourful husks of heirloom corn species, by Fernando Laposse

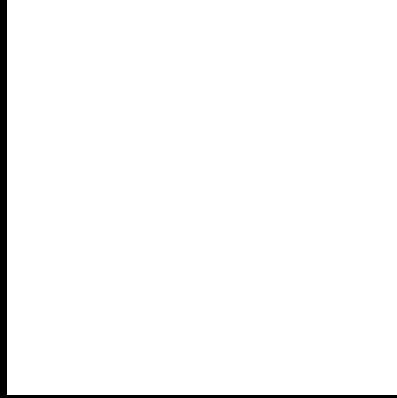


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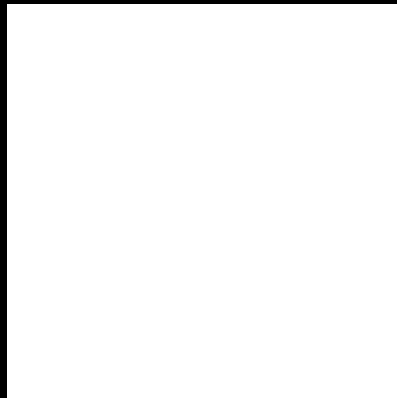


Straw marquetry in vibrant, custom-dyed colours by Adam and Arthur.

Images sourced—
(July 2021) www.dezeen.com



You will need...



(a lot of patience) and the following tools...

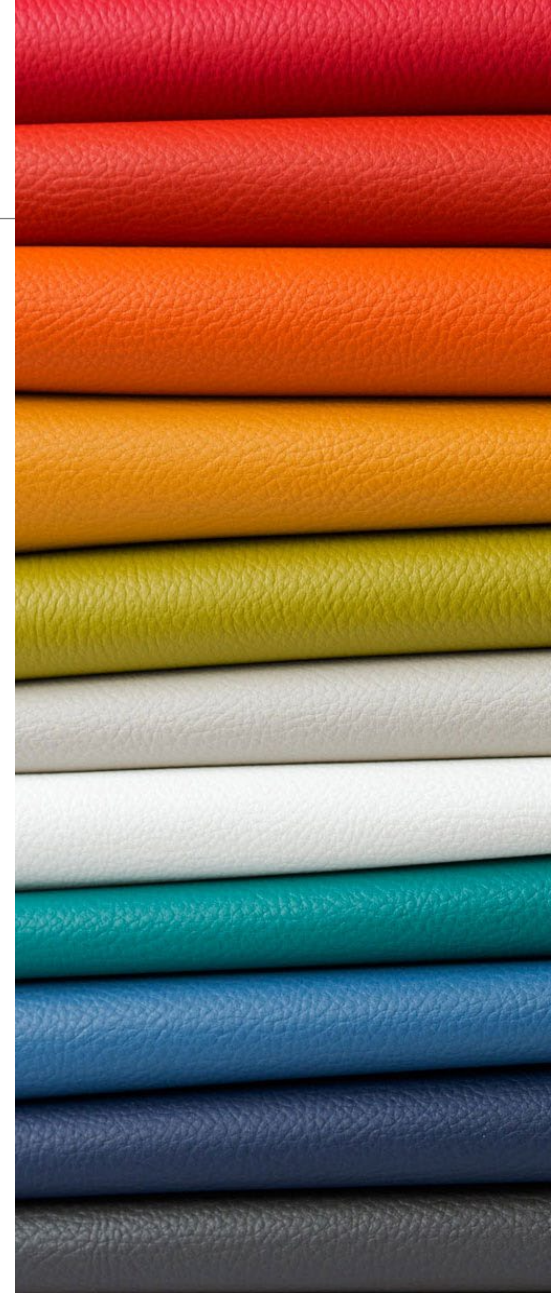
- **Leather** (split all the same thickness).
- **Preferably a Scalpel (or a very sharp clicking knife)** Other options - Press knife, Laser cutter, Leather cutting machine.
- **Glue and spreader/brush** – a water-based adhesive e.g. white **flexible** PVA craft glue.
- **Bone folder**
- **Tweezers** - Useful to place miniature design details with precision.
- **Awl** - Can be helpful in accurately positioning leather pieces.
- **Marble weight** or similar, to sandwich your marquetry under pressure whilst drying.
- **Warm water and cloth** – To clean unwanted glue.
- **Leather press roller** – can be useful to apply even pressure.
- **Folding hammer** – applying pressure to smaller details.

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Choosing suitable Leather...

For the best outcome, your leather should be...

- All the **same thickness** - this will give you a more professional and even finish. Your edges will butt together much more easily. If the leather is of various thicknesses, **split the leather before cutting**. All the leather today has been split to **0.8**.
- Try to ensure the leather is of **similar density**- it will absorb the glue evenly and create less uneven edges.
- **Colourful** – for a bright and interesting design.
- A **heavy finish** - so you can clean the glue without damaging the surface (Test). Most likely pigmented, chrome-tanned leather.
- **Not too stretchy** – not to distort when cutting and gluing.
- **Textured** – Helps hide awl marks / more forgiving.



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Marquetry in Leather

Image Source –
LOEWE, Gate marquetry striped-leather cross-body bag
(September 2021) [Matchesfashion.com](https://www.matchesfashion.com)

This technique may be applied to decorate leather products e.g.

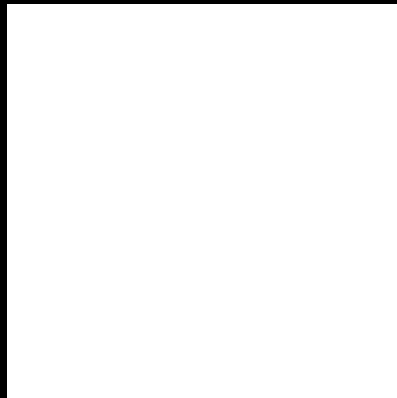
- Handbags
- Wallets
- Purses
- Belts/straps
- Briefcases
- Watches
- Board games
- Jewellery box
- Furniture
- Phone cases
- Glasses cases
- Clothing
- Vanity boxes
- Suitcases etc..



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Different ways to cut your design...

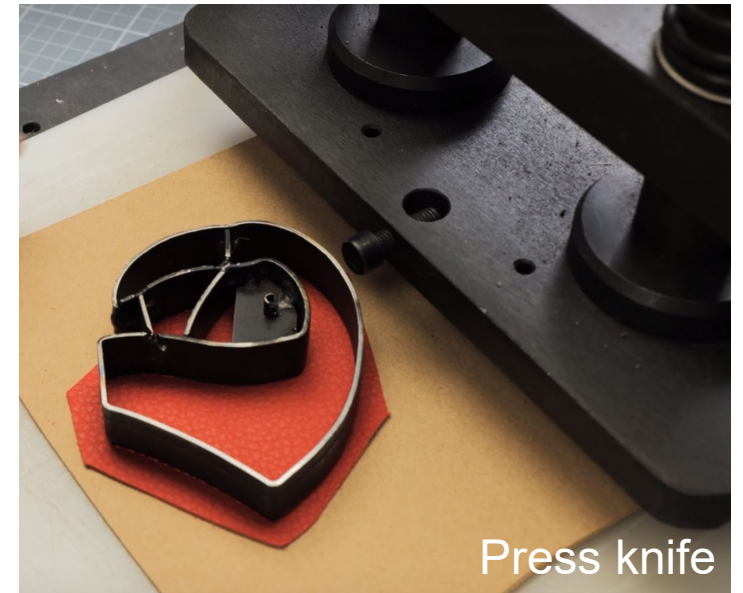


Different ways to cut...



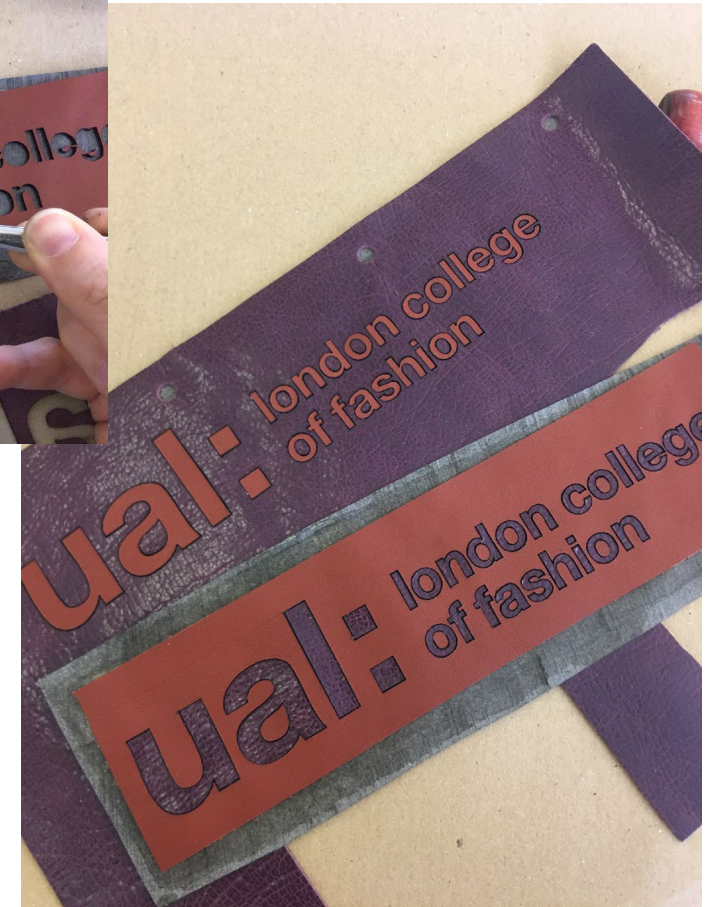
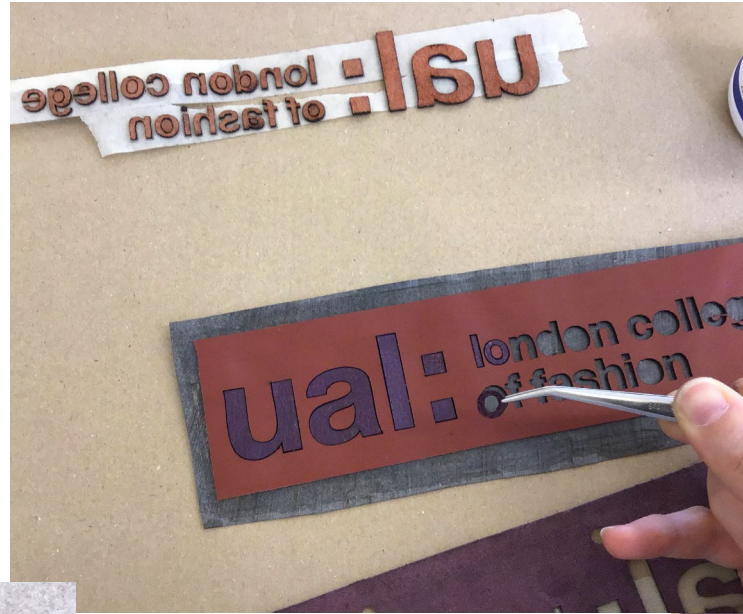
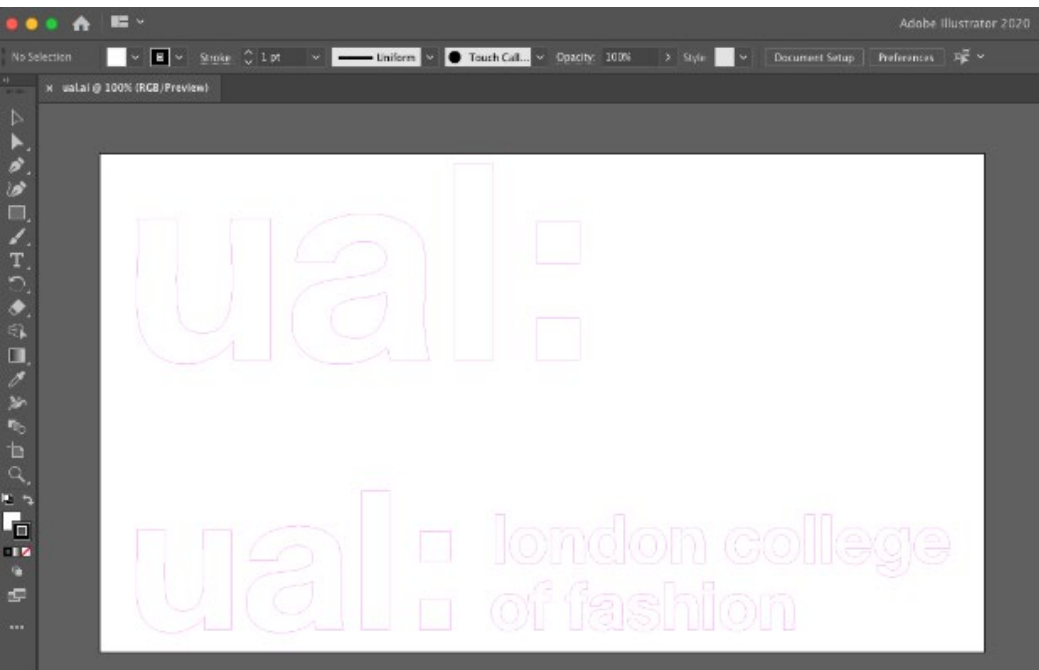
There are many ways to cut your marquetry jig-saw pieces:

- **Knife** – Sharp clicking knife for thick leather, or a scalpel for thin leather.
- **Laser cutting** – But consider the burnt edge.
- **CNC Cutting machine** e.g. Cricut craft cutting machine - this is mostly suitable for soft leather, but there are larger industrial machines available for thicker leather.
- **Press knife** (for the press machine).



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Leather Marquetry – Laser cutter



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Making leather marquetry with a knife



Today, we'll be making our marquetry using a knife.

- **Ensure your knife is very sharp.**

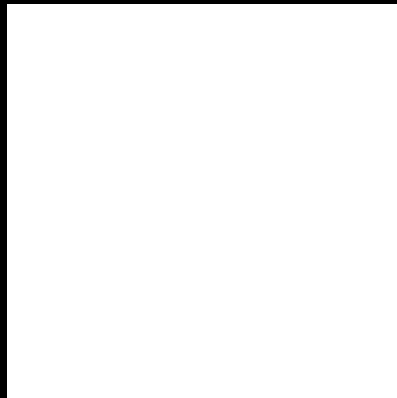
You'll need less pressure when using a sharp blade; making cutting safer. Don't use a disposable snap-off blade, they tend to snap under pressure.

- **Hold your knife straight to achieve a perfect 90° edge.**

This will make butting the cut edge against the next piece of the marquetry jigsaw much easier and the join will be of a better more successful.



Examples of Leather Marquetry



Marquetry in Leather

Images of **Hermès** artisans creating this very intricate example of marquetry. Precisely cut leather, slotted carefully together to create this beautiful designed watch face.



Hermès
Arceau Cavales Watch
Images Sourced –
(November 2020) [Luxuo.com](https://www.luxuo.com)

ual:

Examples of Leather Marquetry

Images Sourced –
(November 2020)
[Prestigeonline.com](https://www.prestigeonline.com)

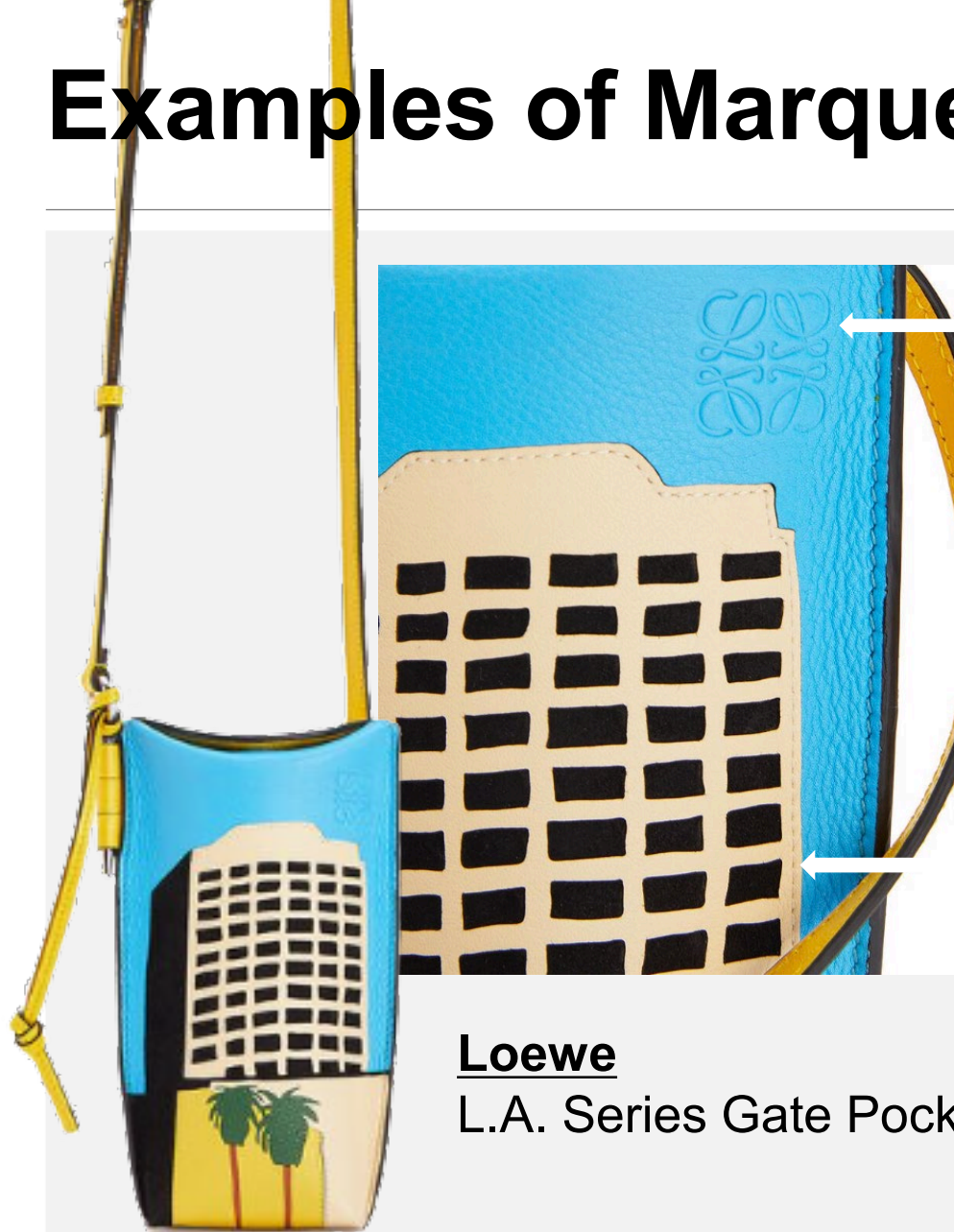


Hermès' Arceau Pocket Aaaaargh!
Watch designed in collaboration with artist Alice Shirley,
Marquetry and Leather Mosaic T-Rex.



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Examples of Marquetry



Branded with
deboss logo
detail.

With top stitching detail
on the marquetry.

Loewe
L.A. Series Gate Pocket



Loewe
La Palme Heel bag in soft calfskin

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LOEWE x Howl's
Moving Castle Puzzle Calcifer small leather belt bag
(May 2023) www.selfridges.com



Leather Marquetry Masterclass

www.dunhill.com
(May 2023)



Moynat + Mark Hearld (collaboration)

Images Sourced –
@Moynat (Instagram)
December 2022

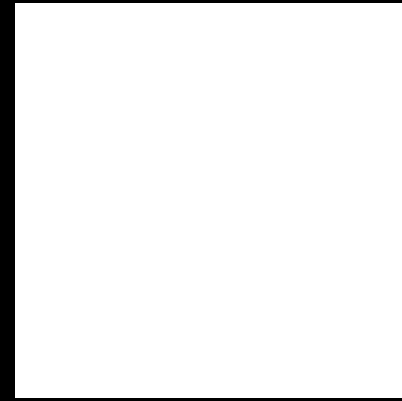




Marquetry artist -
Valentineh Despointes



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Suppliers



Suppliers

Pittards Leather

(Soft and colourful leathers e.g. glove/craft leather,
napa and bundles of offcuts perfect for marquetry)
www.pittards.com

J T Batchelor Ltd (Leather, Tools & Adhesives)
9/10 Culford Mews, London N1 4DZ
020 7254 2962
jtbatchelor@hotmail.com

AACrack (Leather)

Unit 16, Pennard Close,
Brackmills Industrial Estate,
Northampton NN4 7BE
01604 874 422
info@aacrack.com

ALMA Leather

12-14 Greatorex Street, London, E1 5NF
<https://almaleather.co.uk/>

Shepherds - Book Binding supplies

(Selection of glues, thin book binding leathers and
hand tools e.g. bone folders, awls, scalpel etc..
30 Gillingham St, Pimlico, London SW1V 1HU
<https://store.bookbinding.co.uk/store/>

Thank you

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