



Art

## DKT ARTWORKS



Working with the industry's most respected designers, shipyards and specialist outfitters, DKT Artworks' creations grace some of the most renowned superyachts in the world. The company produces bespoke artworks, limited editions, the occasional piece of specially commissioned furniture and an inexhaustible range of decorative finishes for residential interiors and the marine market. DKT is undoubtedly the go-to firm for site-specific artworks and on-site specialist decoration.

Founded by art graduates Steve Keeling and Sean Trowbridge in the late 1970s, DKT Artworks started with a focus on the near-forgotten arts of traditional decoration, and the idea that these hand-produced crafts could be applied to a more contemporary design environment. "What began as an investigation into the processes, soon revealed itself to be a vocation with virtually limitless possibilities," says Keeling. Over the past 40 years the company has grown from strength to strength, assembling a talented team of artisans who specialise in traditional crafts ranging from murals and trompe l'oeil, to handcrafted mosaics, painted and gilded surfaces, verre églomisé, sculpture and bas-relief. To produce DKT's unique creations, the team works in media as diverse as paint, stucco, wood, metal, plaster, stone, resin, glass, acrylic, gold leaf, fabric and lighting.

As well as its in-house artists, DKT Artworks also has associations with like-minded, quality-conscious companies in the fields of manufacturing, technology and crafts, enabling them to offer an even broader range of entirely bespoke finishes, from antique or traditional to contemporary and cutting edge. Despite continuing to champion the relevance of traditional hand-produced arts and crafts, DKT has also expanded into new territory by using modern techniques

and computer-based skills, enabling the company to enrich its repertoire even further. At DKT Artworks' head office, studio and showroom in south-west London, clients can view a comprehensive permanent display of DKT artworks as well as an extensive photographic archive of past projects. It is also here that design, sample production, prototyping for 3D work and much of the manufacture takes place.

The company has been involved in the marine market for 20 years, producing artworks that comply with the stringent onboard safety and technical requirements, while maintaining the distinctive character its customers expect. Its impressive client list, including superyachts such as *Ulysses*, *Al Mirqab*, *Cloud 9* and *Dilbar* and ocean-going cruise liners, most notably *Queen Mary 2*, is testimony to the company's enduring creativity and consistent quality. Working alongside interior designers, outfitters and shipyards, either on board or from their studio, the DKT team combine their knowledge of processes and materials, artistry and craftsmanship, together with their extensive computer-aided design and project management skills, to design, produce and install the perfect piece. More than half of the projects are created on site by DKT's experienced operatives, using techniques that ensure a quick, smooth installation process and prevent accidental damage.

"We are immensely proud of the depth and quality of the work we are now able to produce, of our flexibility and focus, of our organisation, and of the spirit of co-operation we have engendered; all of which are essential to us realising the creative visions of the world's best designers and seizing the opportunities that this unique and intriguing industry continues to present," says Trowbridge.

Clockwise from left: a maple tree bas-relief finished in stucco and metal leaf in a private apartment in London; an old Soviet poster-inspired bas-relief in a faux metal finish for a private home; a DKT team member adds the finishing touches to a lily pond design on a motor yacht