

**EXHIBITION**

**“Max Lamb: Exercises in Seating” at the Art Institute of Chicago**

A 98-foot ash tree? Turn it into some chairs. Molten pewter? Chairs. A 600-pound chunk of steel or raw marble? Heavy chairs. Polystyrene foam? Sit on it. With the seat as a common denominator, British designer Max Lamb has been experimenting with form, materials, and techniques since he graduated London's Royal College of Art, in 2006. The Art Institute of Chicago will host Lamb's first-ever museum show, opening March 22 and called “Max Lamb: Exercises in Seating.” Among the 19 pieces on view, there will be one new project, “Forge.” For this chair, Lamb hammered out billets of raw steel at a mill just north of Chicago. “I wanted to have a relationship with Chicago deeper and greater than just having a show there,” he says. The 37-year-old Lamb has gained recognition and favor in the international design community for his always-experimental approach, and for not taking himself too seriously. “The work is really about the exercise: what’s involved in getting to that end result—whatever that end result is,” he says. “It’s the process that’s most important.” —Lily Wan

