

CAPTURED BY A CHAIR

BAS KOOLS

ROYAL COLLEGE OF ARTS

This piece was one of the most charming and enjoyable pieces on show at the RCA this year. It is a chair that inflates and deflates to its own rhythm, capturing and hugging users, then releasing them once the air escapes. According to Kools: 'The meaning of this project is based on a take on the words intimacy and intimidating. They have a different meaning but the action can almost be the same. Being stuck is an unpleasant feeling, but being hugged is a very nice one.' The whole structure is covered with a plastic sealed fabric to make it air-tight with a vacuum machine installed underneath the seat.

**DOOR HANDLE+**

YOTA KAKUDA

ROYAL COLLEGE OF ARTS

These clever and elegantly made products designed by Japanese-born Kakuda aim for little more than making a busy life easier. +Key Hook solves the problem of missing one's keys when leaving home in a hurry. +Note Holder is a less messy version of what Kakuda describes as 'Post-it culture' for domestic use or for hotel doors. Though there may not be any big ideas here, the subtle humour and restrained craftsmanship were impressive.

**A PHONE FOR THE DISAFFECTED**

TIMOTHY YEOH

CENTRAL ST MARTINS

On the one hand, this could be seen as part of the overall pessimism of students this year, but, really, this mobile phone that turns into a knuckle-duster is just a clever and well-executed joke. 'I wanted to use my design skills to provoke discussion and highlight a growing demand for defensive solutions that borders on the absurd. This product was a distillation of all the fears people have of increasing violent crime and the ensuing hysteria capitalised on by the media,' says Yeoh.

