



# MAN OF THE WORLD

The bespoke orbs from a niche North London studio are reviving a delicately handcrafted art, as **Alisha Prakash** illustrates



PHOTOS FROM TOP: JULIAN LOVE, © BELLERBY & CO. (2)



■ Top row: Peter Bellerby (facing page) and his colleagues, Jon and Isis, at work painstakingly handcrafting a selection of the company's creations in the London workshop; bottom row: The Celestial features traditional representations of heavenly bodies (far left); The Livingstone (Prussian Blue, left); and an 80cm globe as used in collections such as the Curve (below)

PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: STUART FREDMAN, GARETH PON, ANA SANTIL

**B**efore Peter Bellerby was making globes for clients including Martin Scorsese (who commissioned pieces for his *Hugo* extravaganza) and British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare (who asked Bellerby to create an orb as part of his ballerina statue for the Royal Opera House), he was on a quest to find the perfect one for his father's 80th birthday. Coming up empty-handed, Bellerby, whose last venture was managing an upscale bowling alley, took on the task of designing one himself, and soon after, in 2008, Bellerby & Co Globemakers was born. "Bespoke globe-making had died off many years ago, and the creators – perhaps with knowledge of how difficult the process is – took their secrets to the grave," he

says. Learning to wet a gore – the triangular strips that align latitudes – and glue it to a sphere without it ripping, for instance, alone took 18 months to perfect. It now takes specially trained artisans up to a year to hone. The techniques themselves require expert knowledge, and for that Bellerby recruited only the best. For the 80 Series, the firm's limited-edition line of globes, he uses bases made by heritage technicians from Aston Martin. "We want to remind people how limited-edition craft still exists," Bellerby says. "In a throwaway society, handmade pieces still resonate. I'd like to think that in a hundred years, people will look back at our globes and see them as an accurate reflection of the world during the time they were made." [bellerbyandco.com](http://bellerbyandco.com) ●

