

Conversation Benches

Iron benches powder-coated (Orange, Magenta, Pink, Green x 3)

120 x 40 x (H) 75 cm each, plus wadded sweater cushions

Fabricated for the artist in Brooklyn, NY, 2018



There are six kissing benches in the exhibition. I designed them and they are each 120 x 40 x (H) 75 cm in size. They are made in steel which has been powder-coated in four colours –three are in a mid-green, and one in salmon, one in dusky pink and one a more vivid magenta. The 120 x 40cm bench seat is made from welded bars, as are the backrests. I say back rests because there are two, each hinged at the base so it can be flipped so that one can sit side by side or facing each other. ‘Conversation’ or ‘tête-à-tête’ chairs are dual-seated chairs, with facing seats, designed for discreet, intimate conversation. Autistics, for example, like me, can at times prefer to sit (or walk) side by side as eye-contact can be intense and distracting. So,

my kissing benches offer side by side seating as an alternative to face to face.

Some of the benches have wadded cushions hung over them. These were made by inserting wadding into the body of a lilac cashmere and mid-grey cotton sweaters and then stitching up the neck and bottom opening to create, 'sweater cushions'. These look like they have been forgotten by someone who sat on the bench before and can be used to add comfort when sitting on a bench.

Becky Beasley, 2026