

# TANNIC ACID - STEVEN BANKEN

## TANNIC ACID | PROJECT TEXT

'Never use steel nails in oak' was the advice of Banken's grandfather. He was a carpenter and blacksmith and forms the basis of this project. Oak contains high concentrations of tannic acid, which turns dark blue when it's exposed to steel. The same happens with steel, as a result of a chemical reaction between red iron oxide and tannic acid. To accelerate this normally undesirable process the elements that cause this natural transition are applied in liquid form on the other material.

Tannic Acid series of Steven Banken reveals the exceptional similarity in color of two radically different materials after the natural transition.

## TANNIC ACID PLATES

The steel plate is treated in a rotating movement with tannic acid from oak. Different shades of blue become visible on steel by the intensity of tannic acid.

Plates is part of the project tannic acid. The project reveals the exceptional similarity in color of oak and steel after the natural transition. Oak contains a high concentration of tannic acid. The reaction between tannic acid and rust or red iron oxide turns the materials into dark blue.

## TANNIC ACID DRESSER

Oak drawers are treated with red iron oxide, the rust of steel. Different shades of blue become visible by the intensity of rust. The ratio of drawers is based on the "plastic number" of Hans Dom van der Laan and visualizes the amount of rust on wood.

Gradient Dresser is part of the project Tannic Acid. The project reveals the exceptional similarity in color of Oak and steel after the natural transition. The reaction between tannic acid and red iron oxide turns the materials into dark blue.