

# Why Craft Matters: A Symposium

## Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 10am – 4pm

Harewood Suite, Harewood House

### Day's Itinerary

**9.15 – 10.00am: Coffee/Tea and Registration**

**10.00 – 10.10am: Introduction by Jane Marriott, Director, Harewood House Trust**

**10.10– 10.30am: *Useful/Beautiful: Why Craft Matters* by Curator Hugo Macdonald**  
Hugo will introduce the motivations and story behind *Useful/Beautiful: Why Craft Matters* and the questions it raises – how can we tell stories that resonate? How can we help people to understand that craft is an embedded part of daily life? What can we learn from the values of craft?

**10.30- 11.00am: Keynote Speaker: Dr Alex Langlands, Archaeologist, Historian, Writer and Broadcaster**

### ***Cræft: How traditional crafts are about more than just making***

Long standing patron of the Heritage Crafts Association (United Kingdom), writer, and broadcaster Dr. Alex Langlands (Swansea University) explores a range of traditional crafts in a bid to seek out some values and definitions of craft fit for the modern age. The keynote presentation will contextualise craft within its historical and archaeological setting drawing on various examples to illustrate the deep time signatures of many of our crafts and their relationship to societies of the past four millennia. Langlands will consider how craft and its role has changed over time, to meet social and individual needs and will defend the renewed importance of craft today.

Questions from the audience

**11.15 – 11.35am: Artists' presentations on the value of craft and identity**

- Leszek Sikon, Blacksmith
- Lena Peters, Ceramicist

**11.40 – 12.00am: Refreshment Break**

**12.00 – 12.20pm: *'The New Craftsmen and the value of Craft'* – Catherine Lock, Creative Director and Founder of The New Craftsmen**

The New Craftsmen upholds the values of humanity, integrity and imagination in craft, showcasing exceptional work and supporting the growth and success of makers. Catherine will look at the innate values of contemporary craft and why these values are so important to the craft industry and consumer.

**12.20 - 12.40pm: *'Craft as a political ideology – two hundred years since Ruskin'* - Dr Rachel Dickinson, Manchester Metropolitan University**

In Ruskin's bicentenary year, Rachel will reflect on Ruskin's vision for sustainable living and how it can be reinterpreted for the twenty-first century in areas such as art, business management, crafts and ethical consumerism.

**12.40 – 1.10pm: Panel discussion – *The Value of Craft***  
**chaired by Hugo Macdonald with Dr Alex Langlands, Catherine Lock, Lena Peters**

**1.10 – 2.00pm: Lunch**

*(lunch can be purchased from the café and other outlets on site)*

**2.00 – 2.15pm: '*A different way of doing business*' – Dr Alice Owen, Sustainability Research Institute, School of Earth & Environment, University of Leeds**

How can craft businesses provide a different economic model that isn't driven by ever-expanding growth and exploitation of a diminishing set of natural resources, and can it be a powerful antidote to the growth of the "Anytown" high street?

**2.15 - 2.50pm – Artists presentations**

- **Jenny King Embroidery:** craft as a component of a larger industry
- **Juli Bolanos-Durman (glass artist);** exploring the creative process and the value of craft for well-being.
- **Jahday Ford (glass artist) –** use of technology combined with traditional craft practices

Questions from the audience

**3.00 – 3.15pm: '*Developing future talent and craft education for the new generation*' - Nicky Dewar, Head of Learning and Talent Development at the Crafts Council**

**3.15 – 4.00pm - 'What role might craft have in shaping our future?' A panel discussion chaired by Hugo Macdonald**

Dr Alice Owen, Nicky Dewar, Juli Bolanos-Durman/Jahday Ford

**Questions and debate with the audience**

**4.00pm – Main Symposium ends**

**4.30 – 6.00pm Drinks and networking in the Stewards Room, Harewood House.**  
Opportunity to see the exhibition Useful/Beautiful: Why Craft Matters