

Why Craft Matters: A Symposium

Friday 17th 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 begin the day by introducing the inaugural Harewood Biennial exhibition, *Useful/Beautiful: Why Craft Matters*, setting up the premise and ambition of the exhibition, and exploring the key themes it raises.

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

Craeft: 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, Principal Lecturer, Interdisciplinary Studies/English Literature, 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 Bolaños-Durman (glass artist);** *'Fostering the Ritual of Connection Through Making'*
- **Jahday Ford (glass artist)** – use of technology combined with traditional craft practices

Questions from the audience

3.00 – 3.15pm: 'Our Future is in the Making'- Nicky Dewar, Head of Learning and Talent Development at the Crafts Council

How do we nurture our next generation of makers, designers and innovators when craft education is in crisis? Drawing together research, debate and project work Nicky will share The Crafts Council's clear vision for sustaining craft and the skills of our makers.

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 Bolaños-Durman

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