

Why Craft Matters: A Symposium

Speakers' Biographies

Jane Marriott, Director of Harewood House Trust

Prior to becoming Director of Harewood House Trust, Jane was the Managing Director of Yorkshire's award-winning Hepworth Wakefield's gallery and, prior to that, the Director of Development and Director of the Royal Academy Trust at the Royal Academy of Arts (RA) in London. Jane has worked within the arts sector for over 20 years, including a key role in the highly successful opening of Tate Modern. A History of Art graduate and qualified arts marketer, Jane is a trustee of The Reading Agency, a Trustee of The Hepworth Wakefield and a Fellow of the RSA.

Dr Alex Langlands

Senior History Lecturer, Swansea University; Broadcaster and Writer

Alex Langlands is an archaeologist, broadcaster and writer whose recent book *Cræft: How Traditional Crafts Are About More Than Just Making* has received critical acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic. He is well-known for starring in the hit BBC series *Victorian Farm*, *Edwardian Farm*, and *Wartime* and his current series *Digging Up Britain's Past* has been one of the most watched programmes of Channel 5. He is a long-serving patron of the Heritage Crafts Association and currently lives in Swansea, where he lectures at Swansea University in early medieval history, archaeology and critical heritage.

Hugo Macdonald

Design Critic and Curator

Hugo Macdonald is a design critic and curator of *Useful/Beautiful: Why Craft Matters*. Hugo writes for international titles about the social implications of design, including *Domus*, *Wallpaper**, *Apartamento*, *AD*, *Monocle*, *Kinfolk*, *Cereal* and *House & Garden*. He consults on strategy across a broad range of industries for clients including Airbnb, The Goldsmiths' Company, Erdem, Instagram and Ikea. Hugo is the curator of the Object section at MiArt, Milan's annual contemporary art fair. He published his first book "How to Live in the City" for Pan Macmillan in 2017. The former digital editor at *Wallpaper**, design editor at *Monocle* and brand director of Ilse Crawford's design studio, today Hugo lives between London and Hastings.

Leszek Sikon

Artisan Blacksmith

Originally from Poland, Leszek came to the UK twelve years ago. He worked as a middle manager in retail before enrolling at Hereford College of Arts on a blacksmithing course. Since then he has produced a series of artisan tools and knives, using age-old skills to produce modern objects of desire. His inspiration comes from history and traditional methods, getting to grips with hammer, tongs, and fire.

In 2017 he won the Emley Foundation Award for Outstanding Achievement and the New Designers "Best Design of the Year" runner up award. He has exhibited in Belgium, Austria and the USA.

Lena Peters***Ceramicist***

Lena Peters is a London-based ceramicist whose Sheffield upbringing nurtured her passion for history and nature. These elements combined with her interest in folklore and mythology mean that her work dances between the real and the unreal, creating illustrative objects which work to embody a narrative. She is represented by David Gill Gallery, London, and her work has been exhibited at the British Ceramic Biennial in Stone-on-Trent and the Pangolin Gallery, London.

Catherine Lock***Founder, The New Craftsmen***

Prior to founding The New Craftsmen, Catherine spent 15 years as a product, trend and brand developer for British high street brands such as Sainsbury's and Habitat. Her global travels exposed her to a colourful array of making and makers, within workshops and homes which fuelled her fascination for the human and cultural aspects of craft, whilst merging that with her love of beautiful, well designed objects. In 2010 Catherine shifted her focus, touring the British Isles to meet regional craftsmen and traditional manufacturers. Having built her knowledge of materials, processes and provenance, she now works with craft makers to develop exclusive collections and bespoke products and customer experiences.

Dr Rachel Dickinson,***Principal Lecturer, Interdisciplinary Studies/English Literature, Manchester Metropolitan University***

Dr Rachel Dickinson is the Director for Education of the Guild of St George, the charity founded by John Ruskin in 1871. A Principal Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University, she teaches English literature from an interdisciplinary perspective. Her primary research interest is John Ruskin. She is currently interested in the links between Ruskin's vision for sustainable living during the nineteenth century and textiles, and how this can be reinterpreted for the twenty-first century in areas such as art, business management, crafts, ethical consumerism, museum curation, and even farming and land management. She is co-ordinating the Festival of Ruskin in Manchester 2019 and curating an exhibition 'Ruskin's Manchester: from "Devil's Darkness" to Beacon City' at Manchester Metropolitan's Special Collections (20 May – 9 August)

Dr Alice Owen***Associate Professor, School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds***

An engineer by training, Alice has been working in the field of sustainable development since 1991 and is Associate Professor in the School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds. After completing her PhD in 2013, Alice joined the *Sustainability Research Institute at the University of Leeds*. Her research interests are in micro-enterprises, social enterprise, 'good' work and the concept of labour productivity. Her recent work focuses on mapping some of the yarn/textile micro-enterprises of the UK, the geography of their supply chains and customers and exploring how to quantify any contributions to sustainable prosperity from this sector.

Juli Bolaños-Durman,

Artist & Designer

Juli Bolaños-Durman is an emerging Costa Rican Artist & Designer now based in Scotland with a background in Graphic Design, mixed-media and recent immersion into the medium of glass. This specific set of experiences give Juli a fresh and versatile vision when approaching research and the creative process by repurposing found objects and transforming them into precious artefacts that tell a story. Juli was a winner of the Jerwood Makers Open as well as the Inches Carr Scottish Craft Award in 2017, and her work can be found in public collections such as the Museum of Contemporary Design and Applied Arts Collection (MUDAC), Switzerland.

Jenny King

Jenny King Embroidery

Jenny King is an expert in contemporary freehand satin stitch and the founder of Jenny King Embroidery, a Brighton-based design and production studio specialising in contemporary high-end Irish embroidery. Her studio's work combines a modern aesthetic with the craftsmanship and quality of traditional technique, offering both high-end and bespoke embroidery design to more 'commercial' commissions. Her clients include an ever-growing list of high-profile designers such as Erdem, Mary Katrantzou Stella McCartney, Vivienne Westwood and Olivia Von Halle.

Jahday Ford

Glass Artist

Jahday Ford is a recent graduate from The Manchester School of Art specialising in hot glass and mould design. He focuses on the combination of glass blowing with compatible materials alongside multiple digital processes. The materiality of his glass objects changes radically between each making stage therefore expanding the diverse field of digital-craft. His award winning projects 'Breathe' and 'Deconstruct' have been exhibiting in various national and international galleries including New Designers, London Design Junction, Manchester Craft & Design Centre, Talente Munich, Ming Shangde Glass Museum China and The Corning Museum of Glass New York.

Nicky Dewar

Head of Learning and Talent Development, Crafts Council

With nearly twenty years of working within the arts sector, Nicky builds successful partnerships with a wide range of organisations, businesses, education settings, practitioners and artists to deliver strategic education, participation and business-growth initiatives. Her role at Crafts Council challenges the crisis in craft education – responding to the Crafts Council's Education Manifesto - through formal education initiatives, and participation programmes encouraging everyday making, including the national network of craft clubs, platform festivals and co-creation initiatives such as Make:Shift:Do. She has launched a new youth engagement strategy which has led to young people forming Young Craft Citizens. She has evolved the gold-standard, business support Hothouse programme for emerging makers into the foundation of a wider talent development programme that now offers a broad range of support across the country. She is an RSA Fellow, one of their Evidence Champions and a school governor of a primary school in Greenwich, London.