

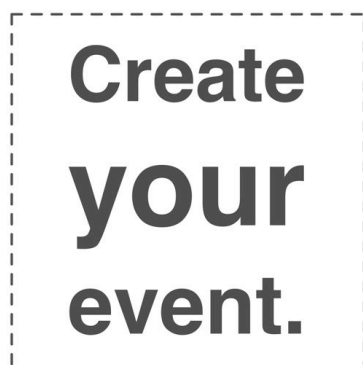
ARNOLFINI PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: 4 November 2009

CRAFTIVISM

Saturday 12 December 2009 - Sunday 14 February 2010

Preview Friday 11 December 6pm - 8pm
www.craftivism.net



unCraftivism 2009

Invited artists/collectives: Kayle Brandon + Heath Bunting, Rhiannon Chaloner + Manuel Vason, glorious ninth, GOTO10, Rui Guerra, Household, Christine + Irene Hohenbüchler, JODI, Mandy McIntosh, Gloria Ojulari Sule, Trevor Pitt + Kate Pemberton, Janek Simon, Stephanie Syjuco, Clare Thornton and projects produced with workshop participants and local residents

Craftivism is an Arnolfini/Relational contemporary art project that responds to the resurgent interest in craft as it relates to socially-engaged art practice. It involves fourteen projects developed by artists and collectives that work with craft-based traditions and activist practices, and who employ the tactics of 'craftivism' (combining crafting + activism) to question and disrupt the prevailing codes of mass consumerism.

The project attempts to collapse the distinction between 'making' and 'doing' - the former associated with craft, the latter with human action. It places an emphasis on interaction and participation in the wider social realm, and employs aspects of self-organisation and 'open-source' principles. The artists involved engage with craft-based traditions through diverse practices including art, technology and fashion. Selected works exemplify 'innovation' in the general sense that newly invented forms might diverge from established rules and perceived norms.

Craftivism is developed in relation to a range of contexts and includes nine artist-led participatory projects developed with local communities, the outcomes of which are shown as part of a gallery-based interactive exhibition, online and in free software-related projects, workshops, talks and the uncurated satellite event *UnCraftivism*. Events also take place locally at Brandon Hill Park, Colston Hall, Full Circle St. Paul's Youth and Family Centre, Knowle West Media Centre and The Mall Bristol.

The project will invite public interaction and provide opportunities to take part, make work and learn craft-based skills to customise products. It encourages wider communities to embrace the 'freedom' to create, modify and distribute products, and in so doing demonstrates the possibilities for people to modify their own lives.

Craftivism is part of the *Artist/Activist* season, a series of Arnolfini projects in Autumn/Winter 2009/2010 which provides a socially-active forum for debate and learning around issues of climate change and alternatives to the culture of consumerism.

-Ends-

Editor's notes

Food for Free Brandon Hill Kayle Brandon + Heath Bunting (UK)

A new branch of the artist's ongoing cartographic project *Food for Free* which invites participants to view the city via the edible plant organisms that dwell within public spaces of Bristol, edible feral, wild and domestic plants can be located identified and harvested via this map that excludes road names in favour of plant names. The artists have selected a section of their map to be rendered as a brass memorial plaque, focusing on Brandon Hill. Visitors are invited to make their own *Food for Free* brass rubbing to take away and use in the Park where the plaque will be re-located in Spring 2010, a short walk from Arnolfini. In Arnolfini Café Car, *The Rosehip Trade* invites public contributions of foraged rosehips as ingredients for its menu in exchange for a rosehip drink and recipe leaflet that explores the different histories of this seasonal fruit. The artists will host a tree planting party in Brandon Hill Park (see events). http://duo.irational.org/food_for_free/



Food for Free Rosehips 2009

Handmade Hero Rhiannon Chaloner (UK) Manuel Vason (IT/UK) + workshop participants hosted by CSF Wrestling

This project brings together a small team of locally based British pro-style wrestlers to participate in designing and constructing an alternative masked and costumed alter-ego, working with the artist to re-appropriate material from personally relevant and culturally loaded items of clothing and objects. Participants' new identities will be photographed by Manuel Vason with the final results displayed as bill posters that map the route between Arnolfini and Colston Hall. A small archive exhibition *British Wrestling Legends* documenting its golden age of pro-wrestling including Mad Eli's collection will be presented in Colston Hall's ground floor gallery (see events).



Handmade Hero workshop with Ian Hummel 2009

Cultural_Capital glorious ninth (UK)

Drawing parallels between the use of bacteria and culture in traditional breadmaking and the self-organising and generative condition of network art, *Cultural_Capital* is a transformational artwork in which a sour-dough starter is created and grown in the gallery; cared for by the curators. Historically, a good sour-dough culture was very important to day-to-day living; it can be transported easily, shared with friends and strangers and can last for generations. *Cultural_Capital* is conceived as a touring artwork that accumulates bacteria and cultural capital from every venue in which it is installed. For *Craftivism* the sough-dough has been cared for by the curators; baked into bread by Arnolfini Café Bar during the exhibition and bruschettas for distribution at the opening (see events). <http://cc.gloriousninth.net/curators.html>



Cultural_Capital 2009

/mode +v noise GOTO10 + workshop participants

GOTO10 are a collective of international artists and programmers, dedicated to Free/Libre/Open Source Software (FLOSS) and software art. Before the exhibition opened, GOTO10 facilitated a 3 day public workshop to create software sound synthesisers and different Internet chat bots. At the end of the workshop everything has been left on site in the gallery and is also available online. During *Craftivism*, GOTO10 are also distributing their free software *Puredyne*, a complete and ready made environment for artists and developers who are looking for a free operating system dedicated to real time audio and video processing. <http://slashmodeplusvnoise.goto10.org> <http://puredyne.goto10.org/>



GOTO10 2009

unCraftivism with various participants, including at the time of publication: Barcamp Bristol; Bristol Knowledge Unconference; Bristol Robotic Lab; Bristol Wireless; Dorkbot Bristol; JODI; The Order of the Black Tulip; Matt Jackson; Rui Guerra; Zukanican. *unCraftivism* is an open event taking place at Arnolfini on 12 and 13 December where you can present your own work. Your contribution is not judged, or restricted by a theme or format. You organise and promote your own event, whether a performance, a talk, a meal, a song or an undefinable event. See www.craftivism.net for further details, and to add your event to the programme. *unCraftivism* is initiated by Rui Guerra (PT/ NL), an artist-programmer working in the area of software development and the organisation of DIY events. *unCraftivism* is self-organised and uncurated. The process is coordinated through a wiki, a collaborative writing tool to enable anyone with access to contribute or modify content. The outcomes are user-generated and thoroughly unpredictable (see events).

Create
your
event.

unCraftivism 2009

Household (UK)

This London-based artist collective has been commissioned to design the branding and publicity for *Craftivism*. Household has a strong focus on interchanging skills through collaboration. Offering curious experiences and inspirations; Household work with inquiries in Graphic design, Film, Installations, Photography, Talks, Workshops, and everything in between.

bau-Stelle Christine + Irene Hohenbuchler (AT) + Young Arnolfini Artists Collective (YAAC)

The sisters present a new version of their multiple authorship project *bau-Stelle* produced with a group of young artists aged 17-18 based at North Bristol Post 16 Centre (Cotham School). The wall and floor-based aspects of the work have been produced through a workshop process with YAAC. Visitors are subsequently invited to re-create *bau-Stelle* throughout the duration of the exhibition. Participants take part in creating a sculpture: wooden elements, like components of an oversized erector set, can be put together to form a latticework, but can also be taken apart again and rearranged. A mixture of furniture, sculpture and architecture emerges and changes – spatially – again and again. Colourful rugs on the floor and painted walls structure and tie the space together.



bau-Stelle 2008 Courtesy the artists and Martin Janda Gallery Vienna

YouTube Records JODI (NL) JODI use and abuse the codes of the internet as their artistic material. For *Craftivism*, JODI take YouTube videos of people singing, etch them onto vinyl records, play them on a turntable and record it, then post the video back to YouTube. The interest is in how YouTube facilitates interaction through action and reaction as well as ongoing user commentaries. The work is installed as a networked computer showing the growing collection of 'hacks' and the gramophone and vinyl disks produced thus far and over the duration of the exhibition. In this way, the contrast of analogue and digital media objects and processes is made explicit. <http://folksomy.net>



YouTube Records 2009

Extended Family Mandy McIntosh (UK) + Europa Chang Dawson, Richard Hopkins - West Country Knotters

McIntosh is a former knitwear designer for fashion house Kenzo. She left Paris in the 90s to develop a practice which includes film, animation, socially-engaged 'public art' and design. *Extended Family* is a leap from knitting to knots, produced through a workshop process with local members of the West Country Knotters Branch of the International Guild of Knot Tyers. This cluster of play, sitting and hammock objects provides a social space in the gallery. Visitors are invited to hang about, talk, people watch, or browse books in the artist's craft reference library which dates back to the first knitting book she acquired at a school prize-giving as a thirteen year old girl in the 1970s. <http://ham-and-enos.org.uk>



Extended Family 2009

CASSAVA Gloria Ojulari Sule (UK) + workshop participants hosted by Full Circle St Paul's Youth and Family Centre

Clothing Art Saying Something and Valuing Alternatives takes the form of a two-person costume and a three-person costume produced through a workshop process with an intergenerational group of women. This involved the reworking of recycled clothing using Yoruba indigo hand-dyeing processes and Dutch wax

prints, cloth traditionally associated with Nigerian cultural dress. Visitors are invited to collectively try on and wear the composite costumes around the exhibition. The work was first shown at Full Circle on 2 December and will be worn by its makers in the 2010 St Paul's Carnival.



CASSAVA workshop 2009

Salon Bench Knowle West Trevor Pitt (UK) Kate Pemberton (UK) + workshop participants hosted by Knowle West Media Centre

This soft public sculpture produced through a workshop process involves knitting and yarn sourced from a local flock of Jacob sheep. The finished work was presented at KWMC (27 Nov-3 Dec) before its re-location to Arnolfini to function as a platform for sharing knitting skills and dialogue, facilitated by local knitters. A knitting pattern *PK2* which documents the process and family packs are available to take away. *Salon Bench Knowle West* is part of a 'flock' of eight benches produced by self-organised salons around the UK, entitled *The Knitting Salon*. A *Civic Inauguration of The Knitting Salon* will take place at The Mall Bristol, in Broadmead shopping Centre and the platform is offered to Arnolfini for discussions during *Craftivism* (see events).



Soft Bench Glebe Farm Council Estate Birmingham 2005

Janek Simon (PL)

A recent artist-in-residence at Arnolfini, Simon presents a project that explores the structure of honeycombe. Seemingly meticulously crafted, honeycombe is produced by bees with incredibly individuality. Working with a biologist and musician he has been researching the irregularities and traces of individualism in the wax produced by bees.

Anti-Factory Bristol Stephanie Syjuo (US) + Labour Behind the Label

A workspace in which visitors are invited to sort through bales of used clothing which would have been shipped to the Third World after going through second-hand channels in the UK, and rework/remix clothes with others from the pile. Interrupting the flow of cast-off garments (from overseas factory to First World, to second-hand, then back to the Third World), by repurposing them within the First World raises larger issues about systems of global trade, manufacturing, and labour relations. The intention is to collectively produce a limited-edition fashion line based on what is available from individual bales. The workshop space is animated by discussions led by Labour Behind the Label, a local activist group that supports garment workers' efforts worldwide to defend their rights. <http://stephaniesyjuo.com>



Anti-Factory Bristol 2009

DIY Shades of Bristol Clare Thornton (UK) + local residents

A city-wide colour mapping project investigating everyday notions of Do-It-Yourself culture and colour associations relating to home and neighbourhood. The 'map' produced is a limited edition swatch book recording the personal shades and DIY top-tips shared with the artist through over 60 conversations and encounters across Bristol. The swatch book and a selection of self-mixed eco-paints are presented and then (re)distributed through participants and their networks. An eco-paint mixing day is a free open studio activity (supported by Naturepaint) and the artist is also creating a special Family Event as part of *Mash Up* (see events).

What's your
shade of Bristol?



DIY shades of Bristol

DIY Shades of Bristol 2009

CRAFTIVISM WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS at Arnolfini and around the city

DIY Shades of Bristol

Sat 24 Oct 10am-4pm

Free

Drop by and share your shade of Bristol with artist Clare Thornton at The Mall Bristol, Broadmead Shopping Centre (ground floor) www.themall.co.uk

Salon Bench Knowle West

Mon 30 Nov - Thur 3 Dec: 9am-7pm

Free

View the salon bench at Knowle West Media Centre, Bristol made by artist Trevor Pitt with local residents

www.kwmc.org.uk

/mode +v noise

GOTO10

Mon 30 Nov, Tue 1 and Wed 2 Dec, Arnolfini

Free

This 3 day workshop for 10 participants looks at how to build an ASCII-based collaborative music platform (creating their own software synth and different IRC bots, using Python, Supercollider, IRC, Puredyne, OSC, Emacs and general Command Line and Terminal applications). At the end of the workshop everything will be left on site in the gallery and available online as part of Craftivism. www.goto10.org/puredyne/

Email: frances.bossom@arnolfini.org.uk with your application. Places allocated on the basis of the case you make to take part. Deadline Nov 21.

CASSAVA

Wed 2 Dec 2-4 + 5-7.30pm

Free

All are welcome to this celebratory event and viewing of work made for Craftivism by artist Gloria Ojulari Sule with local residents

Hosted at Full Circle, St Pauls Youth and Family Centre, 62a Halston Drive, Bristol BS2 9JN.

Cultural_Capital

glorious ninth

Fri 11 Dec 6-8pm

Free

Please join us for the preview of *Craftivism*, where *Cultural_Capital* sour-dough bruschettas will be distributed

The Rosehip Trade

Sat 12 Dec- Sun 14 Feb

Arnolfini café/bar

Free

Bring your foraged rosehips to Arnolfini café/bar, to be used as ingredients, in exchange for a rosehip drink and recipe leaflet

Salon Bench Knowle West, animated by Trevor Pitt

Sat 12 Dec 11am-3pm

Free

Come along to share and learn knitting skills with the artist. Booking advisable by phoning 0117 917 2300

unCraftivism

Sat 12 Dec, 12 noon - 12 midnight; Sun 13 Dec, 12 noon - 6.00 pm, in the Auditorium, Light Studio, Meeting Room, Café Bar, and incidental spaces.

Free

unCraftivism is an open event where you can present your own work. Your contribution is not judged, or restricted by a theme or format. You organise and promote your own event, whether a performance, a talk, a meal, a song or an undefinable event. See www.craftivism.net for further details, and to add your event to the programme.

DIY Shades of Bristol

Sat 9 Jan 10.30am-1pm + 2-5pm

Free (drop-in)

Artist Clare Thornton leads this eco-paint mixing day in The Light Studio at Arnolfini. Experiment with natural pigments and traditional paint recipes to create your own shade of Bristol. Cast your vote for 'The Shade of Bristol' by picking up a card in Gallery 3 and enter the 'Room Makeover Kit' competition.

Non-toxic/zero VOC paint materials and eco-paint kit supplied by naturepaint.com.

A Civic Inauguration of The Knitting Salon

Sat 16 Jan 10am-4pm

Free

The Knitting Salon travels to the ground floor of The Mall Bristol, Broadmead Shopping Centre for its civic inauguration ahead of a UK tour. Share knitting skills and dialogue, facilitated by the artists Trevor Pitt + Kate Pemberton.

Design and construction of The Knitting Salon is produced in association with Craftspace.

www.thamall.co.uk

Food for Free Tree Planting Party

Sun 17 Jan 11am-1pm

Free

Join Heath Bunting + Kayle Brandon for a tree planting party in Brandon Hill Park including a *Food for Free* walk; foraged drinks and snacks. Meet at the Great George Street entrance gates to Brandon Hill, off Park Street, at 10.50am.

<http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/content/Environment-Planning/Parks-and-open-spaces/parks/brandon-hill.en>

Art in the City Lecture Series: Trevor Pitt

Wed 20 Jan 6.00pm

Trevor Pitt is a Birmingham-based artist-curator whose work emerges from the social and cultural context within which it is produced, and involving people as collaborators and active agents. Trevor will talk about his practice followed by a discussion with Zoe Shearman, Co-Curator of *Craftivism*.

British Wrestling Legends

Thur 21 - Wed 27 Jan 12-6.30pm
Colston Hall (ground floor gallery)
Free

A small archive exhibition documenting Colston Hall's golden age of pro-wrestling including Mad Eli's collection and an opportunity to meet the artist Rhiannon Chaloner (daily 3-6.30pm).

www.colstonhall.org

Labour Behind the Label: Ethical Fashion Workshop

Wed 27 Jan 2pm

Free

A workshop on ethical fashion conceived in relation to Stephanie Syjuco's *Anti-Factory Bristol*.

www.fashioninganethicalindustry.org

Art in the City Lecture Series: Kayle Brandon + Heath Bunting

Thur 28 Jan 6.00pm

Kayle Brandon + Heath Bunting are Bristol-based members of the international collective irrational.org and collaborators since 2001. They have been described as activists and often adopt an unadorned, functionalist aesthetic. Brandon and Bunting talk about their practice followed by a discussion with Geoff Cox, Co-Curator of *Craftivism*.

BSL Tour

Sat 30 Jan 2pm

Free

A BSL tour of the *Craftivism* exhibition will be led by artist Matt Jenkins and interpreted by Sandra Barefoot.

Making and Doing Seminar

Sat 6 Feb, 2-5pm

£7 / £3 concs.

This seminar will reflect on the contemporary interest in craft and wider creative strategies that correspond to conditions of post-industrial labour and artisanship. The event asks: what drives this resurgent interest in craft processes and customisation; how oppositional are craftivist tactics; how much are they simply recuperated as free labour and innovation? Presentations include Glenn Adamson, Deputy Head of Research, V&A Museum and Catherine Hemelryk, Co-Curator *Extreme Crafts*, CAC, Vilnius.

Labour Behind the Label: Living Wages Workshop

Fri 12 Feb 1pm

Free

An interactive workshop on Living Wages for garment factory workers conceived in relation to Stephanie Syjuco's project *Anti-Factory Bristol* www.labourbehindthelabel.org

Mash Up

Sat 13 February 12pm-4pm

Donation: £ 3 per child. No booking required

Our famous Mash Up is back, this time with a *Craftivism* focus on colour and cooking. Join artist Clare Thornton with her *DIY Shades of Bristol* colour mapping and The Cookery School at Bordeaux Quay for *Food for Free* cookery. Mash Up is for all ages and in particular parents/carers who want to explore art and ideas with their children. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Craftivism is an Arnolfini/Relational project curated by Zoë Shearman, Director, Relational; Geoff Cox, Associate Curator of Online Projects, Arnolfini and Ann Coxon, Assistant Curator, Tate Modern. It has been developed with the support of a Crafts Council Spark Plug Curator Award and is funded by the National Lottery through Arts Council England; Bristol City Council - Single Project Fund; The Crafts Council; Adam Mickiewicz Foundation; and Mondriaan Foundation. Additional support and partnership has been received from Arnolfini Café Bar; Bradley Stoke Library; Bristol City Council Park's Department; Bristol Rope & Twine; Cameron Lee Carpets; CLIC Sargent; Colston Hall; The Cookery School at Bordeaux Quay; Craftspace; CSF Wrestling; Full Circle St. Paul's Youth and Family Project; Galerie Martin Janda, Vienna; Galsworthy Graphics; Knowle West Media Centre; Labour Behind the Labour; The Mall Bristol; Naturepaint.com, POD Projects; West Country Knotters and Wicklea Youth & Community Centre, Brislington.

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