



How do we define 'Craft'?

The term 'craft' is defined and interpreted in a variety of different ways, included below:

'Contemporary craft is about making things. It is an intellectual and physical activity where the maker explores the infinite possibilities of materials and processes to produce unique objects. To see craft is to enter a world of wonderful things which can be challenging, beautiful, sometimes useful, tactile, extraordinary, and to understand and enjoy and care which has gone into their making.'

Rosy Greenlees, Director, Crafts Council

Contemporary craft work that is cutting-edge and ensures the highest standard of workmanship. Work that must not seek to reproduce or restore, but rather must be innovative in its use of materials and aesthetic vision. Work that not only reflects the signature of the individual maker, but also demonstrates investigation of the processes and critical enquiry.

Arts Council England definition of contemporary fine craft

'Craft is remembering that art is seen, felt and heard as well as understood, knowing that not all ideas start with words, thinking with hands as well as head.'

Mark Jones, Director, Victoria and Albert Museum

'Craft is taken to mean an object which must have a high degree of hand-made input, but not necessarily having been produced or designed using traditional materials, produced as a one-off or as part of a small batch, the design of which may or may not be culturally embedded in the country of production, and which is sold for profit.'

From *Careers and Lifestyles of Craft Makers in the 21st Century* – **Andrew McAuley & Ian Fillis, in Cultural Trends - Vol 14 (2) June 2005, Routledge**

(Craft is) the development of practical, aesthetic and thinking skills and of creativity through the conception and production of individual works and an in-depth engagement with materials

Dr Nicholas Houghton, Benefits to the Learner of 21st century Craft, 2005

Craft can be considered as the designing and making of individual artefacts, encouraging the development of intellectual, creative and practical skills, visual sensitivity and a working knowledge of tools and materials

Making it Work, 2001

Further Reading:

What is Craft? A range of leading figures in the craft world describe what 'craft' means to them. Available from the following URL:

http://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/contemporary/crafts/what_is_craft/index.html