



# Crafts Council/ Craft Matters



1  
Studio Glithero  
Photo: Joe Dilworth

2  
Mary Butcher  
Photo: Tas Kyprianou

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This has been a very useful and well thought out programme. I have gained a huge amount from it, from both the speakers and the other participants. I have been able to take down detailed notes to refer to, both now and in the future, which I know will continue to be useful at different stages of my career.

**Participant on the Contemporary Basketry programme, led by Mary Butcher.**

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The Crafts  
Council's goal is to  
make the UK the best  
place to make, see,  
collect and learn about  
contemporary craft.

## Our aims

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- To build a strong economy and infrastructure for contemporary craft
- To increase and diversify the audience for contemporary craft
- To champion high quality contemporary craft practice nationally and internationally

## Our values

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- We believe that craft plays a dynamic and vigorous role in the UK's social, economic and cultural life.
- We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to make, see, collect and learn about craft.
- We believe that the strength of craft lies in its use of traditional and contemporary techniques, ideas and materials to make extraordinary new work.
- We believe that the future of craft lies in nurturing talent; children and young people must be able to learn about craft at school and have access to excellent teaching throughout their education.

# We deliver our activity through four strategic themes.

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- Make** We stimulate and profile creative excellence, innovative thinking and practice across all craft forms
- See** We change people's perceptions of craft by showing the best of contemporary craft in different physical and conceptual contexts
- Collect** We support the growth of a robust craft sector in a global marketplace
- Learn** We promote craft education and skills progression for the economic and cultural health of the sector





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The Crafts Council organised a fantastic opportunity for us which gave me a much needed boost for myself and my business. The high level of experience of all those speaking and giving workshops was such a rare opportunity I really appreciated it.

**Crafts Council Development Award  
Forum member 2010**

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# Craft Matters/ We believe that Craft Matters

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We would like to thank all the people who have signed up to Craft Matters to date and shared the reasons why Craft Matters to them. Here are some of the things they say:

For more see [www.craftmatters.org.uk](http://www.craftmatters.org.uk)

Nothing is more unique or personal than handmade items.

**Vicki**  
Devon

It draws on one of our earliest and most important instincts – forming material by hand in order to enrich and change our immediate environment.

**Andrew**  
Edinburgh

Craft and craftsmanship is in essence enquiry into the world we live in using the process of making with ones hands.

**Simon**  
Oxfordshire

Craftsmanship & making things well matters: to do otherwise is fundamentally dishonest. For my part, ideas are best developed 'hands-on' not purely mentally.

**Rob**  
Hampshire

Things that are made by hand with skill and love, and made to last, matter to me in a world increasingly littered with mass-produced throw-away stuff.

**Ama**  
Somerset

Since being forcibly retired through ill health it had been my lifeline. No matter what problems there are I can retreat into my craft and everything is fine again.

**Roberta**  
West Midlands

Because it's an expression of our humanity.

**Xavier**

Greater London

In a world of fast-pace technology, it is essential to preserve and maintain our very special human ability to create.

**Tracey**

Cambridgeshire

I am an artist who works with people across different community groups and I know that people gain a tremendous amount from being creative – they learn a new skill whilst at the same time learning something about themselves. I have seen remarkable changes in people's level of self-esteem and self confidence through such activities.

**Gillian**

Somerset

We are human beings and real social interaction is vital to our humanity and anything that promotes that is good in my book.

**Iain**

North Yorkshire

Helping professional makers to do what they do is as important to me as supporting new music, film and visual art. The skill and processes that a finished object represents is far more tangible than most give it credit for... and objects can still be as functional as they ever were, going back hundreds of years, or they can blur the boundaries of what is possible in the 21st century with digital tools and contemporary thinking.

**Nick**

Edinburgh

Crafting is my relaxation, my creativity and my time.

**Claire**

Tyne and Wear

As the initiator and Director of UNESCO's programme for craft development in the world from 1988 to 2008, I have witnessed across the continents how much crafts constitute the wealth of the poorest and a unique resource for cultural and socio-economic development. I am convinced that in this era of globalization, crafts is the most visible and concrete way to discover, understand and appreciate the diversity of cultures.

**Mr Indrasen Vencatachellum**

Paris

# Craft Champions

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Craft Champions are all active supporters of contemporary craft who signed up to Craft Matters at [www.craftmatters.co.uk](http://www.craftmatters.co.uk) to say that craft matters to them.

Craft Champions include:

Linda Barker

Priscilla Carluccio

Sir Terence Conran

Siobhan Davies CBE

Duke of Devonshire

Norman Foster

Professor Sir Christopher Frayling

Tricia Guild OBE

Sir Mark Jones

Jude Kelly OBE

Cath Kidston

Corin Mellor

Michelle Ogundehin

Grayson Perry

Jon Snow

Sheila Teague

Sandi Toksvig

Sir John Tusa

Jeanette Winterson OBE

Professor the Baroness Young of Hornsey OBE

One of the great empowering things about learning craft is that it is almost a physical manifestation of 'I can change the world'.

### **Grayson Perry**

The most satisfying thing a human being can do – and the sexiest – is to make something. Life is about relationship – to each other – and to the material world. Making something is a relationship. The thing about craft, about the making of everyday objects that we can have around us, about the making of objects that are beautiful and/or useful, is that our everyday life is enriched.

### **Jeanette Winterson OBE**

The Danes use the word 'enkelt' to talk about beauty through simplicity. I think craft puts us back in touch with beauty through some of the simplest and ancient methods. It is good for the soul.

### **Sandy Toksvig**

Beautiful craft is second to none. It has its own place in the creative world.

### **Linda Barker**

Craft is an extraordinary thing of wonder; encompassing skill, creativity, artistry and emotion with thought, process, practicality and function. It is one of the purest forms of expression.

### **Tricia Guild OBE**

Craft is an incredibly positive statement of who we are.

### **Jon Snow**

Making things well is enormously satisfying and it is this craftsmanship that makes the journey from the cerebral to the physical a joy.

### **Sheila Teague**

Craft is about the maker, the user, the observer and the future in one. By which I mean it resonates with honesty as the origins of the crafted object are clear and the mark of the hand evident. Craft symbolises utility of purpose and also beauty visualised in simple form. And this is the kind of material future I dream of, one based on universally-appreciated values, a human scale and a desire to be useful. And that's why Craft matters, possibly more so today than ever.

### **Michelle Ogundehin**

What we do/We enable people across the UK to make, see, collect and learn about contemporary craft.

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## Making craft

- We work with thousands of professional craft makers every year, helping them to develop, refresh and renew their work, access the latest information and exchange ideas.
- Professional makers must earn income from their work. We provide opportunities for makers to sell their work in the UK and abroad as well.

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Without makers, there is no craft.

**Rosy Greenlees, Crafts Council  
Executive Director**

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Erik de Graaff  
Truss Chaise Longue  
1994  
Crafts Council  
Collection: W98  
Photo: Nick Moss



## Crafts Council Collective

The Crafts Council offers a range of professional development schemes to support the sector.

Crafts Council Collective offers makers a range of opportunities and resources, including networking events; opportunities for business and creative growth; support for start-ups and ways to explore new pathways to practice.



1  
Craft Rally,  
Sheffield  
Photo: Tas Kyprianou

2  
Crafts Council  
Professional  
Development Forum,  
West Dean College,  
Chichester  
Photo:  
Tas Kyprianou

# What we do/Seeing craft

- We collaborate with museums and galleries to create thought-provoking exhibitions together.
- We tour exhibitions featuring works from the Crafts Council Collection and other outstanding examples of contemporary craft to museums, galleries and other venues around the country.
- We loan objects from the Crafts Council Collection to museums, galleries and other venues for their own displays and exhibitions.
- We create dynamic online exhibitions for our website.
- We work with curators to support them in programming cutting-edge contemporary craft exhibitions.
- We make available a complete photolibrary and information on all the works in the Crafts Council Collection and other significant works by UK craft makers on our website.
- We provide comprehensive information on craft in museums and galleries across the UK on our website.
- Over the next few years we plan to create even more opportunities for people to see the work of the Crafts Council Collection.

## Crafts Council Collection

Representing the very best in British craft, the Crafts Council Collection covers the whole range of contemporary craft with more than 1,400 fascinating objects from established figures and up-and-coming names. Craft is embraced in its widest sense, from its interface with cutting-edge design to its crossover with fine art.

The Collection includes ceramics, glass, metal, jewellery, furniture, textiles, wood, basketry, automata, calligraphy, lettering and bookbinding, as well as more unexpected work such as video, plastics and light.

For more information about the Crafts Council Collection visit: [www.craftscouncil.org.uk](http://www.craftscouncil.org.uk)





1  
Helga Zahn  
Three Rings  
1975-76  
Crafts Council  
Collection: J20  
Photo: Nick Moss

2  
Lina Peterson  
Pinkly  
2009  
Photo: Lina Peterson

# What we do/Collecting craft

- We help people to collect craft by providing extensive, searchable lists of craft galleries, shops and makers on our website plus information on different ways to buy craft, for example by commissioning a piece of work from a maker.
- We produce national events bringing together thousands of people who want to collect high-quality contemporary craft with makers and gallery-owners from the UK and abroad.
- We bring British craft to the attention of more collectors by developing opportunities for makers to showcase their work in the UK and overseas.

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I take great delight and inspiration from the beautiful objects.

COLLECT Visitor  
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## Commissioning Craft

Commissioned work is truly one of a kind. It can take many forms, from an original piece of jewellery to something made specifically for your home or garden, including ceramics, glass or metalwork, or structural pieces like window glass, handles, ornamental gates or staircases.

Commissioned pieces are a great way of recognising anniversaries, retirements or achievement, and reflect a very personal dialogue between you and a maker.

The National Register of Makers on the Crafts Council website is a fully searchable database of makers, many of whom work to commission.



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1  
Adele Brereton  
Photo: Joe Dilworth

2  
Mo Jupp  
Helmet  
1972  
Crafts Council  
Collection: P76  
Photo: John Hammond

# What we do/Learning about craft

- We work to increase people's knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of craft.
- We work with teachers to deepen their understanding and help them to teach craft.
- We work with makers to enable them to work effectively in schools.
- We work with school clubs so their staff and volunteers can offer craft activities to children.
- We provide opportunities for craft professionals to debate, exchange information and learn from each other.
- We publish Crafts magazine with a range of articles and information for craft-lovers and professionals alike.
- We undertake research to provide information on craft for craft professionals, government departments, funders and the media and publish this on our website.

## Crafts Council Online

The Crafts Council website is the UK's best source of information on contemporary craft. The site features comprehensive listings of exhibitions, fairs and events across the UK, a searchable list of makers by region and work, resources for makers, curators, retailers, teachers, academics and craft professionals as well as Crafts Council and other research and wide-ranging information on new trends and issues in contemporary craft.

Visit [www.craftscouncil.org.uk](http://www.craftscouncil.org.uk) to sign up to our e-bulletin for regular news and updates about contemporary craft. You can also follow Crafts Council UK on Twitter and Facebook.



[www.craftscouncil.org.uk](http://www.craftscouncil.org.uk)  
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[www.craftclub.org.uk](http://www.craftclub.org.uk)  
Twitter: @CraftsCouncilUK



## Crafts Magazine

Published six times a year, Crafts is the perfect magazine for makers, collectors and lovers of craft.

An essential sourcebook, every issue profiles established and up-and-coming makers alongside a broad range of news, analysis and reviews. Lively debate, in-depth features and stunning photography: Crafts has it covered.



Our subscribers get the most out of the magazine with regular updates, special subscriber-only competitions and most importantly, every issue delivered direct to the door.

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Supported by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

The Crafts Council is very grateful to Arts Council England for its continuing support.

## **Crafts Council Patrons**

We thank the Crafts Council Patrons for their valued support across our programmes.

The support of our patrons is essential to ensure that we continue to work with makers, helping them to create, develop and renew their work and give people the chance to see and learn about contemporary craft.

For more information about becoming a Crafts Council Patron please contact the development team on 0207 806 2559 or email: [development@craftscouncil.org.uk](mailto:development@craftscouncil.org.uk)

## **Trusts and Foundations**

Trusts and Foundations play a vital role in supporting the work of the Crafts Council, with touring exhibitions, professional development schemes, participation and learning programmes and the further development of the Crafts Council Collection all meeting the aims and objectives of charitable organisations supporting the arts.

Current programmes benefitting from the support of Trusts and Foundations include:

**Firing Up:** our national programme to reawaken school kilns across the UK and introduce thousands of children to working with clay.

Firing Up receives substantial support from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation (2010–2013).



**The Handling Collection:** a valuable resource bringing people directly into contact with contemporary craft objects by established and emerging makers.

Acquisitions for the Handling Collection are supported by The Steel Charitable Trust. (2009–2011).

### **Our Partners**

Our partners also provide very valuable support to the contemporary craft sector, working alongside us on programmes including Art Fund Collect and Craft Club.

### **Art Fund Collect**

Art Fund Collect, launched in 2008, is a partnership between the Crafts Council and the Art Fund, the national fundraising charity for works of art. Over four years to 2011, the Art Fund has contributed over £200,000 to public collections to enable them to acquire ambitious, international work shown at COLLECT.

### **Craft Club**

Craft Club is a national initiative in partnership with the UK Handknitting Association and working with the National Federation of Women's Institutes to enable children and young people to learn craft skills in schools and community settings.

We are very grateful to all these organisations for their generous support of these programmes.

Over the next two years, Craft Club will receive additional support from Arts Council England as part of its Arts Nation programme.

### **UKTI**

We are grateful to UKTI for their continuing support to enable British makers to sell their work abroad.

Cover image  
Philippa Brock  
Self Assembly 2  
2008  
Crafts Council  
Collection: T174  
Photo: Nick Moss

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