



Press Release- Immediate

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Crafts Council announces the selected makers for the sixth year of Hothouse

The Crafts Council has selected 41 maker businesses to take part in the six-month [Hothouse](#) programme, delivered in partnership across the UK. For 2016 makers cover a broad range of disciplines including twelve jewellers, twelve ceramists, seven textile makers and five furniture makers.

As the Craft Council's creative and business development programme for up-and-coming makers; Hothouse has quickly established itself as a gold-standard professional development programme. Over the last five years 163 participants have taken part in the programme with a 100% of makers in 2015 stating that the programme had enabled them to think differently about the direction of their career.

This year the Crafts Council has partnered with 25 organisations across the UK including Manchester School of Art, Craft Scotland, University of Brighton, and The National Centre for Craft and Design. The 41 maker businesses selected already display a high level of technical craftsmanship and originality. Hothouse will further equip them with the business and creative skills needed to run a successful and sustainable craft business.

Participants include;

- [Rebecca Sarah Black](#) is a contemporary jewellery designer and bone smith who creates statement, sculptural and wearable jewellery. Her work is inspired by notions of identity and traditional Scottish folklore.
- [Kira Meyer](#) works with glass and seeks to challenge the viewer by depicting social issues which are represented through her sculptural work. Kira also experiments within design by fusing digital media with traditional craft processes such as photogrammetry, 3D print and casting.
- [Jacky Puzey](#) is a creative digital embroiderer specialising in an artisan approach to digital embroidery and creating bespoke pieces for interiors and fashion. Inspired by shared histories, fashion, cultures, places, and memory; Jacky challenges the perception of digital embroidery within contemporary craft.

- [Arjan van Dal](#) is a ceramicist who likes to explore the quality of the material by stretching it to its limits such as throwing very thin in porcelain and very chunky stoneware pieces. Arjan gains inspiration from architecture and Jindezhen porcelain which reflect the two main elements of form and function that influences his work.
- [Thomas Whittingham](#) is a furniture maker that draws inspiration from the British countryside and modern day architecture. The pairing of these design elements together creates contemporary furniture that sits harmoniously in both modern and more traditional settings. Thomas uses native timber where possible in combinations of the same species that contrast in colouration and grain.

Full list of makers:

[Amanda Denison](#), [Arjan van Dal](#), [Ellie Birkhead](#), [Heather Scott](#), [Charles Dedman](#), [Bola Lyon](#), [Benjamin Matthews](#), [Hannah Tounsend](#), [Chris Townsend](#), [Byron & Gomez](#), [Elmina Fors](#), [Will Elworthy](#), [Abby Frances](#), [Bonner Leather Studio](#), [Jennifer Orme](#), [Oscar Copping](#), [Aimee Bolju](#), [Hayley Beckley](#), [Thomas Whittingham](#), [Melissa Montague](#), [Rhian Malin](#), [Sarah Fennell](#), [Ami Pepper](#), [Jacky Puzey](#), [Kira Meyer](#), [Sally Burnett](#), [Lauren Taylor](#), [Kate Whitehead](#), [Terrarium](#), [Richard Cullen](#), [Lydia Mary](#), [Sam Andrew](#), [Toby Cotterill](#), [Victoria Claire Dawes](#), [Ranti Bangbala](#), [Adam Henderson](#), [Kate Colin](#), [Morna Darling](#), [Jode Pankhurst](#), [Rebecca Sarah Black](#), and [Tina Alexandra MacLeod](#).

List of partners:

[Manchester School of Art](#), [Manchester Craft and Design Centre](#), [Yorkshire Artspace](#), [Design Event](#), [The Bluecoat Display Centre](#), [Creative Lancashire](#), [University of Central Lancashire](#), [Craft Scotland](#), [Fife Contemporary Art and Craft](#), [University of Dundee](#), [City of Glasgow College](#), [Plymouth College of Art](#), [New Ashgate Gallery](#), [Crafts Study Centre](#), [University of Brighton](#), [London Metropolitan University \(CASS Faculty of Art Architecture & Design\)](#), [Nottingham Trent University](#), [The National Centre for Craft and Design](#), [Design Factory](#), [Design-Nation](#), [Craftspace](#), [Nottingham County Council](#), [Bilston Craft Gallery](#), [Craft Central](#), and [The Jewellery School at Birmingham City University](#).

Quotes:

“I am delighted with the selection of designer-makers chosen for our sixth year of Hothouse. The programme provides holistic support and business skills to a new generation of makers within the crafts sector. So far over 160 designer-makers have taken part in Hothouse with participants telling us their entrepreneurial skills had increased from 25% to 78% and 92% that they understood the sector better to develop their businesses.” -- **Rosy Greenlees**, Executive Director, Crafts Council

“Nottinghamshire County Council are delighted to be involved as an industry partner in Hothouse 2016 with the Crafts Council and can’t wait to welcome the Midlands cohort to

Nottinghamshire to share the talents of local makers with our visitors.” -- **Helen Ackroyd**, Principal Arts Officer, Nottinghamshire County Council

“The support given to the participants is invaluable at the early stages of their careers, and we are proud to play a part in that” -- **Kaylee Jenkinson**, Exhibitions & Events Officer, Manchester Craft & Design Centre

- Ends –

For more information on the [Crafts Council and Hothouse](#) please contact Sara Khan at the press office on s_khan@craftscouncil.org.uk or +44 (0) 207 806 2518.

www.craftscouncil.org.uk / @CraftsCouncilUK / #CraftsCouncil

Images

High res images:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1lt9hwgvpe1osh9/AABD_m8aK6Z3mqeVXnoWuv8pa?dl=0



Notes to Editors

About the Crafts Council

- The Crafts Council’s goal is to make the UK the best place to make, see, collect and learn about contemporary craft. We believe that craft plays a dynamic and vigorous role in the UK’s social, economic and cultural life and that everyone should have the opportunity to make, see, collect and learn about craft.
- The Crafts Council is supported using public funding by Arts Council England.
www.artscouncil.org.uk



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