

For immediate release

2009 Jerwood Contemporary Makers to explore collaboration and a diversity of approaches to making

The X- Factor for knitters, interactive wallpaper and objects transformed by mutating marine organisms will fill the Jerwood Space in the next Jerwood Contemporary Makers exhibition. Seven makers whose practices are transforming the ways we think about craft have been selected for the 2009 show, which opens at the Jerwood Space in London on 10 June. Responding to the theme of *Impact*, these emerging makers will be presenting work that explores the unknown, the virtual, the risk and desire of making.

This exhibition will acknowledge how today's craft operates in society – connecting through social interaction and collaboration between people and disciplines, as well as inhabiting the spaces of consumer society: the factory, the retail environment, the home and the garbage tip.

The seven makers have been selected by award winning designer and environmental researcher Rebecca Earley, product and furniture designer Tomoko Azumi and exhibitions manager at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Andy Horn. They will be awarded an equal share of a £30,000 prize to take part in the exhibition. They are:



Committee – product design

Clare Page and Harry Richardson are a collaborative practice called Committee. They work together to assemble, adapt and juxtapose discarded objects, the leftovers from the retail world. Their signature *Kebab Lamps* are 'totems' for today's material culture, painstakingly constructed by skewering different objects together to create standing lights.



Linda Florence – surface textiles

Creating customised, tactile and highly decorative surfaces, Linda deals with our messy and complicated world in her work. She is known for her application of 'fugitive' materials in her works: sugar, rust, iron filings and biscuits, and as a designer specialises in bespoke hand made wallpapers.



Julia Lohmann – design object installation

Inspired by flotsam, jetsam and the ever-increasing masses of rubbish floating in the oceans of the world, Julia will create a series of objects made from porcelain, leather, rubber and plastic for this exhibition. Working with a zoologist, she will 'seed' them with tiny marine organisms called Bryozoa to create intricate, lace-like surface patterns on the objects.



Geoffrey Mann – glass

Through art, craft and design in his work, Geoffrey Mann has created a new hybrid practice. Using a combination of cinematic stop-motion techniques, CAD modeling, rapid prototyping and traditional hand-craftsmanship, his work challenges the known boundaries of glass kiln casting fabrication. For the first time, he will present two works concurrently, both produced virtually by a glass factory in the Czech Republic. Geoffrey creates highly crafted objects which, while not made by him, are still loyal to his signature style.



Rachael Matthews – knitting

Co-founder of Cast Off Knitting Club, Rachael Matthews works with other artists, knitters and collectives to organise events that are always collaborative, socially interactive and unique. For the exhibition, she will create an X-Factor style knitting experience, inviting knitters to present their half-made, problem pieces to a panel of artists who will decide whether or not they are worth taking on to complete.



Claire Norcross – lighting

A textile graduate who until recently has been known as lighting designer for Habitat, Claire Norcross is inspired by organic forms and is passionate about paper and origami. Her concept for the exhibition focuses on the light source being central to the sculptural form of her works. Using energy saving bulbs at the centre of her design, she will create huge, bespoke and highly crafted paper lights inspired by the geometric structures within nature.



Ismeni Samanidou - weaving

Ismeni is a textile designer and artist working with woven cloth. She is fascinated by the construction methods of woven fabrics and by the way textiles can exist within an architectural space. Her work is mainly woven on a computerised jacquard loom, and will create her piece for the exhibition on a special large size loom in North Carolina. The finished piece will be a 3m high walk-through installation inspired by the history of the Jerwood Space building.

Jerwood Contemporary Makers has been initiated by the Jerwood Charitable Foundation to encourage new and stimulating ways of showing work across a range of craft disciplines and to support emerging talent. The exhibitions are curated by a different panel of experts each year and this is the second exhibition in the three-year series.

Jerwood Contemporary Makers forms part of the Jerwood Visual Arts series. Launched in 2006, Jerwood Visual Arts is a series of awards and prizes that celebrate a range of disciplines across the visual arts, including painting, drawing, sculpture, photography and digital moving image.

Jerwood Contemporary Makers will show at the Jerwood Space, 171 Union Street, London SE1, from 10 June to 19 July 2009, with tour dates in the UK to be announced shortly.

Ends

For more press information, please contact Iliana Taliotis or Kate Wright-Morris at Colman Getty on 020 7631 2666 or iliana@colmangetty.co.uk

Notes to editors

The Jerwood Charitable Foundation is dedicated to imaginative and responsible funding with a particular remit to support talented artists in the early stages of their careers. The Jerwood Charitable Foundation also runs a number of prizes and exhibitions across several disciplines and in particular in visual arts disciplines of painting, drawing, sculpture, photography and moving image. Jerwood Contemporary Makers sits alongside these prizes and awards under the existing banner of Jerwood Visual Arts.