



Made in the Middle: Major Contemporary Craft Exhibition opens

Craftspace present a wealth of talented makers from across the Midlands

On the **6th March 2017**, **Craftspace's** contemporary craft exhibition **Made in the Middle**, will be on show at the **Parkside Gallery in Birmingham**. **Made in the Middle** is a recurring touring exhibition of high quality contemporary craft and applied art from the Midlands. The eighth in the series, the exhibition provides a great opportunity to purchase and commission work from some of the best makers in the region. This exhibition is developed in partnership with Herbert and is part of Craftspace's 30th anniversary programme.

Featuring both recent graduates and makers with established reputations, there is a wealth of creativity on display, including ceramics, jewellery, metalwork and textiles. Selected by an expert panel through open entry, it promotes the best of contemporary craft from makers living and working in the Midlands or with a strong recent regional connection.

28 makers have been selected by a panel of curators and craft sector specialists. The makers offer an insight into the skill, creativity and innovative practice within the region.

'Craft is a vital source of revenue and innovation to the UK, 'Craft generates £3.4 billion for the UK economy... 150,000 people are employed in businesses driven by craft skills.' (Crafts Council 2014). *With recent changes to country's economy we are keen to highlight and explore the value of craft both in economic terms and social contribution. Through the work and careers of the selected makers, the exhibition will explore enterprise – making as a business – through life of the sole trader . We will also build on the development of digital practices since the last exhibition.'* Emma Daker, Exhibitions and Projects Development Manager, Craftspace.

Selected exhibitors include jeweller **Dauvit Alexander** who creates striking jewellery for men combining found materials and precious gemstones, **Aimee Bollu** who also takes inspiration from found items which she combines with beautiful minimal ceramic vessels, **John Grayson** who uses traditional metal forming and enamel decorating processes to create whimsical, humorous and decorative metal objects and **Karina Thompson** who pushes the boundaries of digital embroidery.

The exhibition will continue its tour to major galleries across the Midlands into 2018 raising the profile of regional makers and giving them the opportunity to sell their work to regional and national collectors. Visitors are encouraged to consider commissioning new work from local makers and a range of more affordable work will be available to buy, whether your budget is a few pounds or a thousand pounds.

A new website celebrating 30 years of Made in the Middle has recently launched. The online exhibition features 30 makers from almost 250 who have exhibited during the 30 year history of the exhibition and draws on the wealth of resources created to tell the story of Made in the Middle from 1988 to the present. **madeinthemiddle.org**

Made in the Middle is a partnership between **Craftspace** and the **Herbert Art Gallery & Museum** in collaboration with **The National Centre for Craft & Design**.

#madeitm30 #madeitm @tweetcraftspace.
madeinthemiddle.org
craftspace.co.uk

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NOTES TO EDITOR:

Image:

Zoe Robertson, REAnimate Sensory Playground, Photo: Kate Rossin

Exhibition dates and events:

Parkside Gallery, Birmingham City University: 6 March – 29 April 2017

The National Centre for Craft & Design: 13 May – 8 July 2017

Rugby Art Gallery & Museum: 10 Feb – 7 April 2018

Exhibitors (selected)

Aimee Bolu	John Grayson	Sally Collins
Aneta Brudkowska	Karina Thompson	Sandra Owens
Anna Lorenz	Kate Mead	Sue Dyer
Chloe Smith	Kay Williamson	Theo Wright
Clare Pentlow	Libby Ward	Tim Boswell
Dauvit Alexander	Melanie Tomlinson	Vicky Shaw
Emily-Kriste Wilcox	Michala Gyetvai	Zoe Hillyard
Hayley Beckley	Rachel Butlin	Zoe Robertson
Interlace	Rachel Carter	
Jane Littlefield	Robyn Smith	

Invited Makers

Clare Wilson	Jennifer Collier
Spencer Jenkins	Rajesh Gogna

The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum is managed by the Culture Coventry charitable trust and celebrates the city's culture, history and arts with an exciting programme of exhibitions, events and workshops.

Craftspace is a charity creating opportunities to see, make and be curious about exceptional contemporary craft. We are based in Birmingham and work collaboratively regionally, nationally and internationally. We build relationships between artists, people and organisations and encourage the sharing of ideas, skills and knowledge. We have 30 years' experience and continue to learn, push boundaries and challenge ideas. Craftspace initiates artistic programmes which stimulate creative excellence, critical thinking and understanding of contemporary crafts in the widest social and cultural contexts.

Craftspace is funded by Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation. Craftspace was based at mac birmingham when it began in 1986 and returns to its roots with this collaboration celebrating our 30th anniversary.

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Craftspace 

Herbert
Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

