

NOVEMBER 26 2009

Wrapped Up: The Devon Guild's Annual Christmas Exhibition

21 Nov – 5 Jan 2010 Open 10 am – 5.30 pm
The Devon Guild of Craftsmen, Bovey Tracey, Devon, TQ13 9AF

It's back! The Devon Guild is now hosting its sixth Christmas exhibition showcasing the best and most innovative designer-makers in the UK. *Wrapped Up* is held in the spacious gallery at the Guild and is on until 3 January, providing a unique shopping experience away from the traffic and crowds of the towns and cities.

It's an ideal opportunity for visitors to browse and purchase original, collectible gifts by over 60 makers chosen for affordability and functionality. The Guild gives the option to avoid a Christmas of costly and commercial batch-made products. Instead there is an investment in hand-made work by craftspeople committed to making in small studios with specialist tools and individual skills. Beautifully made tableware (Jessica Wall), purses and bags range from £3.00 to the higher-end scale for a piece of richly crafted furniture (Pacha Design, at £2,000).

Because the emphasis at the Guild is not only hand-made but 'contemporary' craft, *Wrapped Up* particularly features makers who have produced exciting new work using innovative design ideas: Craig Fellows (whose scarf inspired the exhibition title) is a new young designer, overlaying delicate pastel textiles with graphic illustrative prints. Daniel Kavanagh was chosen for this year's Craft & Design 'Best Newcomer' Award with pots incredibly fusing metal onto ceramic surfaces. The 'veiled jewellery' of Yoko Izawa is aptly named from her interest in 'wrapping' or covering, she combines modern materials: lycra and nylon yarn, acrylic and polypropylene, with precious white and yellow metal and traditional techniques inspired by Japanese culture: knitting, dying, jewellery making. Her rings and bracelets evoke the fragility of shells and stone with vibrant frosted hues.

Here the purchase of original, contemporary craft also supports emerging small businesses from the South West region, for example Devon-based Hamble and Jemima who produce a fantastic range of bag designs from recycled material - and Janine Partington, an increasingly collectible young enameller from Bristol. Truro-based Rosanna Martin is an up and coming artist who will benefit from this opportunity to show her work. She says of her experience:

For 'Wrapped Up', I've produced hand thrown porcelain cylinders, which either function as vases or can simply be enjoyed for the tactile and visual qualities they offer. Having graduated in 2008, the show at The Devon Guild will be an ideal platform for me to reach a broader audience for my work and a very exciting chance to exhibit alongside so many other high profile and experienced makers.

'Wrapped Up' is already showing proof of successful exhibition sales which is great news for the Guild and for the craftspeople it is showcasing.

[PRESS: CD of images and artist details available. Contact: Simon Williams \(Marketing Officer\) \[simon.williams@crafts.org.uk\]\(mailto:simon.williams@crafts.org.uk\) for further material or images of the exhibitors' work. Contact: Saffron Wynne \(Exhibitions Officer\) \[saffron.wynne@crafts.org.uk\]\(mailto:saffron.wynne@crafts.org.uk\) for more information about the exhibition.](#)

[INFO: The largest contemporary crafts centre in the South West, the Devon Guild is a membership organisation for craftspeople from the region. Housed in a converted Mill on the edge of Dartmoor, the gallery exhibits work by designers and makers of national and international standing. Unique designer-crafts by members ranging from ceramics to furniture is sold and displayed in the Craft Shop. The Guild is also an educational charity which aims to educate and inspire new makers and designers through its regular programme of activities in schools and the community.](#)

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