

# Devon Guild of Craftsmen

## Press Release

### **VOICES** - *Expressive approaches to quilting* by the *international Quilt Art group*

**Saturday 14 January – Sunday 26 February 2012**

Devon Guild of Craftsmen, Riverside Mill, Bovey Tracey,  
Devon TQ13 9AF

The Devon Guild of Craftsmen is pleased to be displaying this exciting new exhibition by the Quilt Art group. Expressing their own unique voice, each professional quilt maker has produced highly individual work unrestricted by set theme or size. Each voice is attuned to the shared vision of Quilt Art: to extend the boundaries of quilting as a medium and achieve wider recognition of the quilt as a contemporary art form.

Historically, quilt making has been associated with domestic and feminine aspects of craft. Although decorative and often elaborately detailed the quilt itself has been viewed as a functional object at the lower end of the perceived art/craft hierarchy. The work on show in 'Voices' seeks to challenge these conceptions. While exhibitors use the quilt as a canvas and its related techniques as tools, this is the point of departure as they utilise a diversity of artistic approaches such as paint, digital and screen printing, large-scale pleating, text/type and collage.

Viewed hanging, laid flat and even heaped in the gallery the pieces question established notions of craft as they move closer to an art form. But the highest standards of craftsmanship are still apparent as we perceive the time-consuming detailed stitching and skilled processes applied to these mainly large-scale, works. The novelty of expression here is in the creation of a non-functional artefact: 'deliberately making quilts as an expression of art'. ([Quilt Art group.](#))

The internationalism of the Quilt Art group – members are from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium, Hungary, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark and United States of America – suggests we may see older textile-based traditions developing into new cultural stories.

The Devon Guild of Craftsmen itself has over fifty textile-based members from the South West of England. With this show it hopes to sustain and encourage appreciation of hand-made textiles as well as inspiring visitors from the region with new quilting techniques and approaches. The exhibition is free and open daily 10am – 5.30pm. A full-colour catalogue accompanies the exhibition.

<ENDS>

**Exhibitors:** Ester Bornemisza, Elizabeth Brimelow, Jette Clover, Yael David-Cohen, Fenella Davies, Ann Fahy, Dirkje van der Horst-Beetsma, Inge Hueber, Sara Impey, Val Jackson, Allie Kay, Cherilyn Martin, Sandra Meech, Dominie Nash, Mirjam Pet-Jacobs, Karina Thompson, Janet Twinn, Anne Woring, Charlotte Yde.

**Event:** Free family 'drop in and quilt' day

Saturday 18 February 10am - 4pm. Jenny Hutchison (quilter and Guild member) will be in the gallery to inspire and teach quilting techniques so you can create your own stitched textile art. All ages welcome (under 12 yrs supervised). Free, drop in. No need to book. Devon Guild gallery, Bovey Tracey. 01626 832223

**Press:** High resolution images available from <http://www.crafts.org.uk/press.aspx> or contact: 01626 832223  
Simon Williams (Marketing Officer) | [simon.williams@crafts.org.uk](mailto:simon.williams@crafts.org.uk) / Anna Trussler [anna.trussler@crafts.org.uk](mailto:anna.trussler@crafts.org.uk)  
Devon Guild of Craftsmen, Bovey Tracey TQ13 9AF



**NOTES:**

**The Devon Guild of Craftsmen** is an educational charity and membership organisation representing craftspeople from the South West and showcasing the work of national and international makers.  
<http://www.crafts.org.uk/home.aspx>

**The Quilt Art Group** is a group of 20 professional quilt artists. Founded in 1985, QUILT ART aims to extend the boundaries of quilting as an artistic medium. A number of members are also working in the field of mixed media. The group holds regular touring exhibitions in Britain and Europe and has also exhibited in Japan and Canada.  
<http://www.quiltart.eu/aboutquiltart.htm>

Images: (page 1) Sandra Meech, Silent Voice. Below: (left to right): Eszter Bornemisza, Urban Fragments; Inge Hueber, A Heap of Stripes 1; Fenella Davies\_Horizon 1; Jette Clover, Words 5

