

# John Makepeace Enriching the Language of Furniture

**The Devon Guild has been developing its touring exhibitions programme and building its reputation within the craft arena for the last 6 years. The principal aim of this programme is to develop, promote and support the best makers, challenge the diversity of crafts and to reach as wide an audience as possible.**

With successful touring exhibitions such as *David Leach – 20th Century Ceramics*, *Elemental Insight*, *Guy Martin – Whole Life Cost*, *Interface – Contemporary International Digital Craft*, *Urban Field* and *Playing with Fire – Contemporary UK Enamel* the next touring exhibition planned by the Guild shouldn't disappoint.

**John Makepeace – Enriching the Language of Furniture** will bring together the fifty year career to date of this eminent British furniture maker. The exhibition will put into context Makepeace's influence as a designer, teacher and ambassador for the crafts and will be supported by a substantial education programme. It will offer enrichment and learning opportunities for a range of visitors. A film, exhibition catalogue, reference and research materials, along with hands-on activities and further study projects, will all help to enhance skills, encourage creative thinking and gain a better understanding of furniture and making.

The exhibition will be made up of major pieces of furniture borrowed from national institutions and private collections. New work designed and made especially for the exhibition will also be shown alongside key pieces and prototypes from Makepeace's own collection. This is an incredibly rare opportunity for the Guild, the touring venues and visitors to view Makepeace's design journey, learn about his influences and to find out more about the man behind the furniture. An Honorary Fellow of the Guild and tireless advocate for the aims and objectives of our organisation we are pleased to curate this exhibition:

*'The Devon Guild has long pursued a policy of bringing talent into the county, setting its sights on a national as well as a regional profile. It was in the early 1960's, when I was living in Warwickshire, that the Guild first invited me as guest exhibitor at the annual exhibition. Since moving to West Dorset in 1976, it has been thrilling to see the Guild originate and manage a series of excellent touring exhibitions without anticipating that the next one would start quite so close to home!'*

**John Makepeace**

To enable this exhibition to happen the Guild has secured one of the largest grants given out to a touring craft exhibition by Arts Council England and the Guild looks forward once again to being supported by them: *'We are delighted to support this touring exhibition by John Makepeace with one of our biggest awards to date. John is one of the foremost furniture designer makers in the country, and this exhibition will give new audiences a chance to engage with the history and evolution of furniture and the way technology, combined with his craftsmanship has led to new innovative designs.'*

**Chris Humphrey**, Executive Director of Arts Council England, South West

This is an exciting exhibition as it will not only be representing a key figure with the crafts but the exhibition, with its substantial support from Arts Council England will attract, encourage and engage new visitors and act as a forum for accessing the best of British craft.

The exhibition will preview at the Guild on Friday 18 September 2010 running until 31 October and will then tour nationally until 2012.

**Saffron Wynne**  
Exhibitions Officer  
The Devon Guild of Craftsmen



Supported by  
**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**

image: Phoenix Chair by John Makepeace

### A Tribute

## Barbara Vincent 1921 – 2009

**Barbara Vincent, who has died at the age of 88, was much admired for the lino-cut prints she made from the early 1970s until 2000. Most of these were made at her home in Topsham, where she printed over 100 separate editions.**

She will probably be best remembered for the series of images depicting agricultural scenes and livestock sales around Chagford, but her work included a wide range of subjects drawn from directly observed scenes and experiences. She made many prints of scenes around Topsham and the neighbouring coastline, including a set of 26 subjects for a Topsham ABC (with Gryff Thomas).

Born in London, she went to art school at Guildford, and to Camberwell, with wartime service in the Women's Land Army in-between. She married in 1946 and moved to Northam, near Bideford, the following year, where she combined painting with bringing up a family.

She exhibited locally, and in 1964 was the first woman to have a solo exhibition at The Burton Art Gallery, Bideford. In the late 60s she experimented with fabric collage – for which she was accepted as a member of the Devon Guild – and mosaic, before taking up the medium of lino-cut printing.

Starting with lino reclaimed from local floors, and making the prints using the back of a spoon to rub, her early works had a grainy quality, greatly improved when she acquired a 19th century

Albion press in 1980. She made small editions, typically around 15 original prints.

Her early works had a stark, sometimes abstract, quality, but in time the images became richer and more complex, with scenes of local activity depicted with a gentle humour alongside her acute observation. Her work shows the strong influence of print-makers such as Paul Nash and Eric Ravilious, but she was always an admirer of the great modern 20th century artists, such as Picasso and Ben Nicholson.

The Devon Guild summer exhibitions of the 1970s provided a valuable showcase for her work, and she received numerous invitations to exhibit in craft galleries around the South West. A retrospective exhibition was shown at the University of Exeter in 2004, and a catalogue of the prints published.

Barbara was a Member and loyal supporter of the Guild, and stewarded regularly at the Riverside Mill. She developed diabetes late in life: after a serious fall, she spent her last years in a residential home at Moretonhampstead.

**Paul Vincent**

Images: (1) Barbara photographed by Alan Richards, (2) Men and Dogs by Barbara Vincent



## Big Hand, Little Hand 2009

**Big Hand, Little Hand [the Devon Guild scheme placing artists and makers in schools] has supported twenty-seven school projects so far this year.**

These include silk painting, mosaic, printmaking, felt making, a variety of ceramic projects, lettering and, as pictured, sculpture made from recycled materials. Using recycled materials is currently popular in schools as a way to explore sustainability issues as well as a way to keep costs down. Sara Roberts worked at a primary school in Sidmouth with 130 children aged between four and seven. The school has a new garden and wildlife area and wanted a piece of sculpture, collectively made, to bring the garden to life in a way which would appeal to their young pupils. The giant bee, sited on top of the flowerbed, is made from a variety of materials which include old inner tubes, plastic bags and flowers.



Images: Outdoor sculpture by pupils and Sara Roberts at All Saints C of E School (Sidmouth)

## History of Devon Guild

**Andy Christian is starting to research and write a history of The Devon Guild of Craftsmen.** He would be delighted to hear from Friends and Members who have memories or papers from the Guild prior to 1987. You can contact him on 01803 762624 or by email at andy@andychristian.co.uk. Eventually the Guild would like to publish a short history and anyone who might like to help fund the project can let Andy know directly. Andy Christian was the first Director of the Guild and served in that role from 1987 to 1996.

We want your news for our April edition. Copy deadline 1st March. Please email Simon Williams at [simon.williams@crafts.org.uk](mailto:simon.williams@crafts.org.uk)

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# Persian Painters

**Isfahan is one of the great cities of the Islamic world and a centre for enamel painting. Here amongst a labyrinthine bazaar is a multiplicity of arts, crafts and market stalls where everyone is industriously creating and selling their wares. The sound of hammer on metal resonates around the arched thoroughfares surrounding Imam Square.**

A few years ago I had been contacted by an Iranian enamel portrait artist, who found my website and was keen to correspond. Accompanied by two intrepid and well-travelled enamellers – Dorothy Cockrell and Janet Notman – I determined to visit Iran and make a survey of enamel painting there.

Three months ahead of the June elections and while Barack Obama was in Presidential honeymoon, we found many artisans friendly and welcoming, eager to demonstrate the techniques they employ and spontaneously offering us tea sweetened with saffron flavoured sugar crystals. The mood then was one of optimism for the future. Today, with an unstable political situation, we are concerned to know how these people fare now. The names of the Iranians we met have not been revealed to protect their security.

Having started in Tehran, we flew to Shiraz to

begin our winding journey across the high salt deserts of old Persia to Yazd, said to be the oldest city in the world and onward to Isfahan.

There we found over one hundred shops selling hand-painted enamels. Talking with the painters through our interpreter we delighted in what we shared in common besides discovering our differences. For example we all use the same German manufactured enamel paints but Iranian painters use (Persian) cat hair brushes where we use sable or synthetic. All painters mix each powdered colour with water and a little glycerine on a separate glass tile where in UK we use a variety of media.

The painting technique involves laying down colour with a brush; sometimes blending wet colours with a tiny sponge. Once dry, areas of

enamel paint are worked over with varying thicknesses of fine needle points by scratching away the colour and revealing the white base coat, thereby creating a delicate pattern.

The enamellers were working free hand, guided by the shapes of the repoussé enamel. Iranian copper is the purest in the world and readily accepts the three base coats of liquid white enamel, each fired at about 900°C.



We saw a wide range of spun vases and dishes and small egg cups for sale besides complicated table tops composed of many conjoining enamels. The traditional style of decoration has a base colour of azure blue with the addition of deeper blues and some reds. Enamel painters were mainly male but of all ages, with the younger generation expanding their galleries at the time we visited. The few females were experimenting with naturalistic subjects such as figures, birds and flowers and a wider ranging of palette.

Having made contact with painters in the bazaar who were demonstrating the sgraffito technique, we were invited to visit a workshop in the suburbs of Isfahan. Here we saw a range of enamel vases and dishes, representing a month's work, which were being batch-fired, six at a time, on a flat steel sheet. The strong Iranian son of the owner deftly worked the furnace like a ballet dancer, showing no signs of fatigue.

As a destination Iran can match the grand-scale archaeology of ancient Egypt and yet, unlike that popular destination, Iran is wonderfully free of tourists. This has much to do with the fact that this exquisite country is classed as dangerous territory for Western travellers.

Let us hope that Iran's leaders can resolve their differences peaceably and that enamellers there will continue to prosper.

## Gillie Hoyte Byrom

*Images: Enamel painting studio and workshop in Isfahan*



# Set Adrift at Plymouth College of Art

**Sally Tully, a BA (Hons) Applied Art graduate from Plymouth College of Art was given a highly sought after opportunity to exhibit her work at The Devon Guild during the summer.** The Devon Guild of Craftsmen team attended the College's annual summer show held in June to award an annual Devon Guild prize. All the work produced by the Applied Arts students was looked at and Sally Tully was chosen as the winner.

The Guild's Education Officer, Philippa de Buret says "we chose Sally's work to exhibit at Riverside Mill as we felt her work incorporated grace, originality of materials and a sense of locality." Sally says "It's an honour to have been chosen by The Devon Guild of Craftsmen to exhibit at Riverside Mill. The standard of work of my peers was

exceptional and to have an establishment such as The Guild appreciate my work and give me this opportunity makes all the hard work worthwhile."

As one of only four remaining further and higher specialist art and design colleges in the country, Plymouth College of Art provides a role locally, regionally, nationally and internationally in providing art and design education and training. The College is part of the National Arts Learning Network with strong partnerships with other specialist art and design colleges and universities.

For further information about Plymouth College of Art please visit [www.plymouthart.ac.uk](http://www.plymouthart.ac.uk)

*Image: Sally Tully work exhibited at Devon Guild, photo Simon Williams*



# Charles Stanley Event

**On 14 July 2009 the Exeter branch of Charles Stanley [the leading stockbroking and investment management group] held an event for their clients, inviting them to attend a private viewing of the Summer Exhibition at The Devon Guild of Craftsmen.**

Providing an exclusive opportunity for their clients in the local Devon area to view the largest contemporary crafts centre in the South West, Branch Manager Chris Harris-Deans said:

*"The Devon Guild of Craftsmen is a unique and stylish venue which we knew would be the perfect environment to entertain our loyal and valued Charles Stanley clients and it proved to be a big hit. Everybody had a wonderful time and many said that they would definitely be back with family*

*and friends in support of the local artists. The Guild were only too happy to show off their stunning range of diverse crafts which celebrates the creativity of their membership and it was a delight to work with them on this event."*

The Guild provided tasty light refreshments and proved to be superb hosts, with Co-Director Sarah James giving an interesting and informative overview and history of the Guild, and ceramicist Penny Simpson offering a behind-



# Sarah James and Made by Hand

**Having left the Guild recently, Sarah James, the director of The Contemporary Craft Fair in Bovey Tracey (11-13 June 2010) has been set the task by Newport City Council to create a brand new event at Tredegar House called Made by Hand (3 – 5 December 2010).**

Made by Hand is an opportunity to meet and buy directly from 135 designer-makers and 40 food companies in a very festive and historical setting. Visitors will be able to wander the main mansion house, stable blocks, the orangery and formal gardens plus watch craftspeople demonstrating their craft.

Modelled on The Contemporary Craft Fair, the event will have a high quality of exhibitors selected by an independent panel. Makers of ceramics, glass, jewellery, silver, wood, metal, textiles, fashion accessories, interiors, clothing, furniture, wood, leather, mixed media, recycled material and fine food & drink are invited to apply for a stand.

For an application form and further details of Made by Hand please email Sarah on [hello@madebyhand-wales.co.uk](mailto:hello@madebyhand-wales.co.uk) or phone 01626 830612. Deadline for applications is 31 January 2010.

[www.madebyhand-wales.co.uk](http://www.madebyhand-wales.co.uk)

*image: Virginia Graham*



# Appeal for Volunteers

**Our volunteers play a vital and integral part in the success of the Guild. Without the help of our volunteers the Guild would not be able to fulfil its charitable, educational and cultural objectives and continue to be the largest craft centre in the South West with a nationally important role within the craft sector. We would like to involve volunteers more in the Guild and are looking at re-introducing and test-trialling the steward scheme.**

We are especially looking for volunteers who would like to help in the gallery and shop during the busy summer and Christmas time. We would welcome a few more eyes for security, help in the shop, to welcome visitors, explain the exhibitions, promote the Guild and generally give us a hand where needed making the Guild a friendly place to visit.

If you do not want to help out in the shop but would like to help the Guild we are also always looking for volunteers to help in other areas such as admin, mailings, marketing, fundraising, at Private Views and other Guild events. We are also looking for a keen gardener who would like to look after the plants in the courtyard.

If you would like to help out as a volunteer please ask for a volunteers job description outlining your and the Guild's responsibilities. Volunteers are not expected to commit themselves on a regular basis but whenever it is best suited to them. The only thing we ask is that if you do commit to come, that you attend. Volunteers can enter when they would like to work in the volunteer diary in the shop.

If you would like to volunteer and receive a job description, please contact Julia Harris on 01626 832223 or e-mail on [julia.harris@crafts.org.uk](mailto:julia.harris@crafts.org.uk).

We look forward to hearing from you and involving you more in the Guild's activities.

## Julia Harris

Membership and Events Officer

**CHARLES STANLEY**  
The personal investment service

the-scenes look at the creation of her craft.

All in all, the event was a resounding success and Charles Stanley are looking forward to working further with The Devon Guild of Craftsmen in the future.

## Emma Burrows

Charles Stanley Public Relations Manager

*Images: (1) Chris Harris-Deans, Senior Branch Manager of Charles Stanley Exeter, Erica Steer, Director of The Devon Guild & Michael White, Devon Guild Chair of Trustees*

*(2) Amanda Wilcock with her newly purchased Svend Bayer pot*

*(3) Paul Kingdon, Terry Knapp & Linda Kingdon*

## Devon Guild and Member events **All at Riverside Mill except where stated**



Image: Winged seat (detail) from In Tandem. Photo by Simon Williams.

### In Tandem

An intriguing dialogue between furniture and ceramics.

**Saturday 26 September –  
Sunday 8 November**

This is a collaborative project between two Members of The Devon Guild of Craftsmen, *Blandine Anderson and Terry Sawle* who are accustomed to dealing with two very different media – ceramics and wood. Working together for only the second time they have challenged themselves to produce furniture/ interior pieces which challenge traditional ideas of ceramics, sculpture, furniture design and construction.

**Talk: Blandine Anderson**

**Tuesday 20 October 6.30pm**

in *The Terrace*

The collaborative process brought to life in this illustrated talk.

£6 (£4 Members, Friends, students) Associates free.

**Gallery Tour: Blandine Anderson  
and Terry Sawle**

**Saturday 7 November 11am & 2pm**

Blandine and Terry will show visitors around their exhibition. FREE but advance booking essential.

### Ashide: A Second Nature

**Saturday 3 October – Sunday 1 November**

in *The Terrace* Open daily 10am – 5.30pm FREE  
Recent work by Guild Member Carol Ballenger which includes photographs of Japanese gardens in the UK with Haiku poetry by John Powls.

Previously shown at the Japanese Embassy *Ashide* was reviewed in *The Times* as the 'top national

museum exhibition of the week'. Carol is also displaying her new images of Dartmoor.

### Ashide Performance Event

**Friday 30 October 6.30pm**

in *The Terrace*

A group performance with Carol Ballenger and friends as they present a creative journey through varied landscapes from *Dartmoor Dreams* to *Ashide* and urban inspired projects, with poetry by John Powls, music performed by Andrew Downton and Carol Ballenger, against a backdrop of projected imagery.

£6 (£4 Members, Friends, students) Associates free.

### Call my Bluff

with *Apollo Antiques of Ashburton*

**Friday 27 November 6 – 8pm**

in *The Terrace*

The Apollo Antiques team, lead by Mark Davis, will try to bamboozle you with wild and wonderful descriptions of antique objects and only you can decide which is the truth. A fun and fascinating evening!

Nibbles available.  
£6 In aid of Raise the Roof Appeal.



Image: Carol Ballenger

## Wrapped Up

**Saturday 21 November –  
Sunday 3 January 2010**

Our annual selling exhibition aiming to show and sell a wide range of craft selected from the best makers around the UK.

## Workshop: Family fun making Christmas cards and wrapping paper

**Saturday 5 December 10am – 4pm**

at Phoenix Hall, Bovey Tracey

Run by printmaker and Devon Guild Member  
Jill Beagley.

Adults £25, children £10

(no unaccompanied under 16's please)

## Christmas Celebration

**Saturday 5 December 10am – 5.30pm**

Come and join us for a day of Christmas festivities! We will have free mince pies and mulled wine all day in the shop. South West blacksmith James Kendrew will be demonstrating his craft, and carol singers will entertain in the afternoon. Local company *The Cheese Shed* will be here 11am - 3pm offering free cheese tasting along with the *café* who are also offering tasting of their chutneys and pickles.

The Craft Shop has a large range of Christmas decorations and Christmas cards for sale along with a huge variety of handmade gifts. There will also be a French Market in Bovey Tracey town centre on the same day to add to the festive atmosphere.

## Craft Shop

### Members Showcase

**Saturday 3 October –  
Tuesday 3 November**

**Tim Hurn** Ceramics

**Saturday 7 November –  
Tuesday 8 December**

**Jenny Hutchison** Textiles

**Saturday 12 December –  
Tuesday 19 January 2010**

**Amanda Popham** Ceramics

### Craft Focus

**Saturday 12 September –  
Sunday 1 November**

**Kati Vamos, Bridget Arnold, John Leach**  
Smoke-fired ceramics

**Saturday 7 November –  
Sunday 27 December**

**Sarah Cant, Alison Tutcher** Millinery

### Focus on Devon Guild Members

10% discount on selected Members' work  
in the Craft Shop

October	<b>Isabella Whitworth</b>	Textiles
November	<b>Roberta Ayles</b>	Glass
December	<b>Jamie Inglis</b>	Jewellery

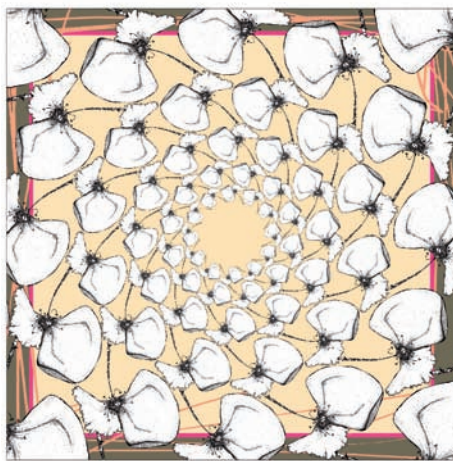


image: Craig Fellows 'Oh Poppy' silk scarf in  
*Wrapped Up* exhibition

## Devon Guild Showcases at top venues

We have had a fantastic opportunity to sell makers' work at the famous **Gidleigh Park Hotel** near Chagford. They have a beautiful antique display cabinet in the foyer, and for the last 4 months have been selling glass and jewellery which has been a huge success. Wood and ceramics including work by Terry Gilding, Dave Register, Paul Khosla, Richard Godfrey and Arwyn Jones currently feature until the end of October.

**Exeter Northcott Theatre** is also hosting two glass display cabinets with eight Members' work in, and wall space for ten 2D pieces which will all be for sale. This will commence in early October and include work by Debby Mason, Laurie Rudling, Deborah Treliving, Carol Ballenger, Jamie Inglis, Janine Partington, Nicola Werner, Will Shakspeare, Iris Milward, Richard Godfrey, Beverly Beeland and James Kendrew.

We are also in collaboration with **Bovey Castle** who will be displaying 3D work by Guild Members for sale from November.

## The Devon Guild of Craftsmen on tour

### Playing with Fire

*Contemporary UK enamel*

A Devon Guild of Craftsmen Touring Exhibition in conjunction with University of the West of England and British Society of Enamellers.

**5 September – 31 October 2009**

Bilston Craft Gallery, Wolverhampton

**14 November 2009 – 24 January 2010**

Cheltenham Art Gallery, Gloucestershire

### John Makepeace Tour 2010 -12 18 September – 31 October 2010

The Devon Guild of Craftsmen and touring nationally until 2012.

For more information please email  
[anna.trussler@crafts.org.uk](mailto:anna.trussler@crafts.org.uk)

See front of Newsletter for details.



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## Advance Booking

Call 01626 832223 to book your place on any event

**Devon Guild events are open to all unless specifically stated otherwise. Friends of the Devon Guild have priority booking for many events. Advance booking is essential for all priced events.**

## Call for Entries

## The Contemporary Craft Fair

in association with

**The Devon Guild of Craftsmen**

**11-13 June 2010 at Mill Marsh Park,  
Bovey Tracey, Devon**

Applications are now being sought from designer makers resident in Britain and Ireland working to the highest standard in ceramics, glass, textiles, jewellery, silver, metal, wood, plastics, mixed media, leather, recycled materials and paper. Sorry, no paintings, photography or musical instruments.

With 6 years firmly under its belt, The *Contemporary Craft Fair* has become one of the largest and most prestigious shows to be part of in the UK. The lively, festival atmosphere has built up a loyal following and represents 160 of the UK's finest designer makers. The additional on-site educational programme includes demonstrations, workshops for all ages, masterclasses and lectures by some of the UK's leading names. Selected by an independent panel of judges.

**Closing date for applications:**

**30 November 2009**

For an application form contact:

Nina Fox

Project Manager

The Contemporary Craft Fair

c/o Made by Hand, 6 Marlborough Terrace,

Bovey Tracey, Devon TQ13 9AU

01626 830612

[craftfair@craftsatboveytracey.co.uk](mailto:craftfair@craftsatboveytracey.co.uk)

[www.craftsatboveytracey.co.uk](http://www.craftsatboveytracey.co.uk)

## Heritages de Daguerre

An exhibition of works by contemporary Daguerreotypists from throughout the world. Devon Guild Associate Member Christopher Brenton West is exhibiting 4 images from the series 'Life and Love of Pierrot' and two from 'La Nature Morte' series.

12 September -18 October at Daguerre's  
House, Bry Sur Marne, Paris

For more details see

[www.daguerre-bry.com/index\\_english.htm](http://www.daguerre-bry.com/index_english.htm)

or [www.daguerrotypes.co.uk](http://www.daguerrotypes.co.uk)

We want your news for our April edition. Copy deadline 1st March. Please email Simon Williams at [simon.williams@crafts.org.uk](mailto:simon.williams@crafts.org.uk)

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