

## Re-making the Past

### *Six contemporary makers respond to inspiration from pre-history*

*A touring exhibition from the Devon Guild of Craftsmen*

Devon Guild of Craftsmen is an educational charity which supports established and emerging makers from across the UK and beyond, providing professional development, education and marketing opportunities. Our mission, through a varied exhibition and outreach programme, is to develop further an understanding for contemporary craft.

#### **Exhibition Overview:**

Co-curated by Susan Kinley, exhibitor and member of Devon Guild of Craftsmen, and Saffron Wynne, Exhibitions Manager Devon Guild of Craftsmen this exhibition brings together a group of artists who are developing exciting new work that reflects a common root in a fascination with the ancient past. This unique combination of established artists; **Mary Butcher, Susan Kinley, Helen Marton, Syann Van Niftrik and Wright & Teague [Sheila Teague and Gary Wright]** will bring together sculptural work in metal, resin and ceramics with woven structures and wall based installations in glass and textiles. They will focus on themes that forge links across the visual arts and archaeology, inspired by sources including Bronze Age artefacts and Neolithic sites.



Wright & Teague – Odyssey – Staff, 24 carat gold on Sycamore, vessels aluminium, wax, fragrances



Syann Van Niftrik – Blood Kin – Steel and sealing wax, 450mm x 450mm

The artists involved met when selected for the *CinBA* [Creativity and Craft Production in Middle and Late Bronze Age Europe] project in 2012. This project brought together partners including Southampton University and the University of Cambridge, The National Museum of Denmark and the Crafts Council. Individually, and as a group, they visited Bronze Age collections across Europe, building new collaborations that culminated in an intervention at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge, in 2013 'Creativity in the Bronze Age – A Response'. As an interdisciplinary group of artists they are interested in translating their interest in archaeology into new, contemporary work that brings the past and present together. They have recently been awarded an Arts Council Research and Development Grant specifically to develop new work for the exhibition. *Re-making the Past* will offer valuable opportunities for collaboration and information exchange between artists, audiences and new partners, which can include schools, universities, museums and heritage sites. These will take the form of talks, workshops and site visits that will encourage a dialogue between artists, archaeologists and participants in all events.



Mary Butcher – Floating Vessel, willow, white and black

Each artist is developing new work that challenges and extends their existing practice, whether through changes in scale, medium, techniques or pushing technical boundaries and new digital technologies:

**Mary Butcher** is developing large scale sculptural works, using basket making techniques in a variety of materials. These are influenced by her fascination with Bronze Age boat structures, and visits to sites including Dover Museum, where one of the few Bronze Age boats to be found in Britain is on display.

**Susan Kinley** is looking at the relationships between Neolithic and Bronze Age sites situated at the extreme ends of the United Kingdom, viewed through a lens of shifting perspectives and viewpoints. She will bring together installations that incorporate printed fragments, imagery, contours and shapes on metal and glass.

**Helen Marton** will be using new digital technologies to push the technical boundaries of her interest in Gabbroic clay, ceramics and large scale sculptural forms. New, innovative work will include the transferring of sophisticated QEMSCAN imagery of Bronze Age shards onto ceramic and fabric.

**Syann Van Niftrik** is developing sculptural forms that explore new possibilities in casting and forging processes in non-ferrous metals. Her work responds to the living roots of pre-historic domestic crafts and artefacts from various collections throughout Europe, including Denmark.

**Wright & Teague** work as partners. They will be exhibiting three dimensional work that looks at the idea of an odyssey across the Bronze Age World. Made of gold on sycamore, wax and aluminium, the work will be a metaphor for memory, and channel the emotive power of smell.



Helen Marton – Ceremonial Blush – Resin compound, 250mm x 80mm



Susan Kinley – Island Fields – water jet cut & fired glass, 60cm x 80cm [section of installation, overall size 250cm x 300cm]

**Exhibition content:**

- Art works by 6 artists [images provided not necessarily work that will be included in exhibition]
- Handling collection
- Educational interpretation
- Catalogue

**Size:**

Designed to fit 140m2 but flexible in its arrangement

**Availability:**

Launching at Devon Guild of Craftsmen 21 March – 10 May 2015

Touring to Crafts Study Centre, Farnham 9 June – 18 July 2015

Available late July 2015 onwards

**Devon Guild of Craftsmen will provide:**

- All artworks
- Handling collection
- Education panels and gallery notes
- Educational activities for visitors
- Installation guide and checklist
- Inward transport
- Guidance & support from Devon Guild of Craftsmen staff
- Marketing pack

**Host venue will provide:**

- Professional installation team
- Nail to nail insurance
- Storage for packaging and crates
- Onward transportation
- Invigilation
- Appropriate lighting levels and environmental conditions

**Cost:**

£1000 plus VAT

Fee for exhibition plus one way transport within the UK and insurance nail to nail

Exhibition swapping can be negotiated

**For further information:**

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