

Press Release

Get Fresh

Showing the newest and best design talent from the South West

Saturday 14 January - Sunday 8 March

at Devon Guild of Craftsmen, Bovey Tracey, Devon TQ13 9AF

The Devon Guild has a delightfully large and contemporary gallery and every 2 years it gives over this space to exhibit fresh new work by emerging designer-makers. The Guild is proud to present the best in the West: *Get Fresh '17*.

The Guild's main aim is to promote innovative craft making through exhibitions and workshops – also to support new 'start-up' makers from the region, such as recent graduate students, someone beginning a career change - even those learning new skills to set up a small business or studio without going down the college route. *Get Fresh* acts as a major exhibition opportunity, a chance to sell new design pieces, and to help with practicalities involved with entering the real world marketplace. Previous *Get Fresh* exhibitors (2015) such as Ashburton-based woodworker [Ambrose Vevers](#) and colourful geometric rug weaver [Angie Parker](#) have become full Guild Members, going on to highly successful careers. Each have sold and exhibited prolifically, with regular stalls at the Contemporary Craft Festival and national design fairs and run successful workshops in their craft, such as Ambrose's popular 'Make a 3-legged stool in a day'!

2017 exhibitors: [Luke Axworthy](#), [Jo Barker](#), [Mark Cullen](#), [Sarah Duncan](#), [Carey Ellis](#), [Emma Finch](#), [Tom Gyr](#), [Sarah Hitchens](#), [Carol Hunt](#), [Claire Read](#), [Marieke Ringel](#), [Fern Robinson](#), [Katie Robinson](#), [Heather Scott](#) and [Stacey West](#)

All pieces on show are experimental in shape and inventive in theme. Emma Finch's architectural-themed ceramics are screen printed and hand painted with dilapidated urban cityscapes. Sarah Duncan exposes UV light onto photopolymer covered plates, revealing images of outer space and celestial bodies. Watch Fern Robinson's video about her playful interactive jewellery [here](#).

While some digital technologies are apparent, what's more obvious is how the makers' work relies on or combines with traditional craft techniques. **Luke Axworthy** a graduate of Plymouth College of Art, applies cutting-edge 3-D printing and scanning to hand-blown recycled glass (right) and traditionally-forged, engraved jewellery. **Tom Gyr** says of his beautifully vintage calligraphy pens and rulers: 'Every nib holder is made on a 1950's Myford engineering metal lathe.' **Marieke Ringel** has relocated from Germany to Devon: her hand-moulded ceramic animal sculptures represent emotions: encased in thin clay boxes, they yearn for nature, fierceness and freedom but are shrunk and framed by human touch and vision.

The exhibition gives a real insight into makers at the early stages of their careers and the Guild would like *Get Fresh '17* to be an important step for South West design talent and their journey towards highly successful careers. *Exhibition is open daily, 10am-5.30pm. All work is for sale. Entry is free.*

Related events: Friday 13 Jan: 6-8pm **Get Fresh 17 launch party & dining**, free entry to shop & gallery.

20 Jan – 26 Feb: [Spotlight exhibition](#) of Associate Members work (free) & Sat. 21 Jan. 2-4pm: **Meet the Makers** (free)



Images: (top) Marieke Ringel: (right) Luke Axworthy, Squish Cast Pewter Vessels Interchangeable; (overleaf top L to R) Tom Gyr, oblique calligraphy pen; Emma Finch, ceramic vessel Pink Kings; Stacy West jewellery; Sarah Duncan, Nova Stella printed plate; Marieke Ringel, ceramic Horse Box

Devon Guild of Craftsmen: Based in Bovey Tracey the Devon Guild is the most popular contemporary crafts venue and charity in the South West (100,000+ visitors annually) and is the hub of local and creative communities. With a reputation and influence that extends nationally, the exhibitions and events are fun, free, open to all, inclusive and inspiring. They run an acclaimed educational outreach programme to schools and communities and house two galleries and a shop with an exciting range of constantly changing displays. There's a lively, friendly café with a rooftop terrace, alongside the River Bovey. The Devon Guild is involved in two popular annual festivals that have helped put Bovey Tracey on the map: **The Contemporary Craft Festival** in June and **Nourish Festival** of food, music and craft every September.. www.crafts.org.uk [DGC Facebook](#) [DGC Twitter](#)

