

Jerwood Makers Open

20 January – 11 March 2018

**Exhibitor statements &
learning information**

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Sam Bakewell

Born in Devon but now based in London, artist Sam Bakewell is better known for working with clay. He received the British Ceramics Biennial award in 2015 for his installation, *Imagination Dead Imagine*, a clay structure housing twelve years of occasional object making, which included a small hand carved piece which took seven years to complete.

Using his Jerwood award as an opportunity to do something entirely different and temporarily abandoning all his acquired clay expertise, Sam has chosen to work with wood using a chainsaw and screwdriver to carve these large pieces.

'The chain sawing seemed such a brutal, immediate way to make something fast and take some of the control away.'

Sam's observation of objects, usually discovered in museums, is the starting point for all his work whether made from wood or clay; in this case textured details from late Gothic and Renaissance European lime wood figures such as Saint Christopher and the head of John the Baptist.

Using wood instead of clay has allowed Sam to utilise his expressive power without employing his acquired knowledge of familiar materials. The change of scale and the use of glue, paint and gesso (primer), which has given him complete control of colour, has become a liberating process.

'They have completely changed the boundaries for me about what I think about making.'

Twitter: @studiomanifold (this is an 8 person account)

Instagram: @sambakewell

Web: www.studiomanifold.org/sam-bakewell

Juli Bolaños-Durman

Juli's work has been widely exhibited in the last few years and she is a 2017 recipient of the Inches Carr Scottish Crafts Award. She is now based in Edinburgh.

Juli first trained as a graphic designer but always knew she was an artist. She began to use glass as a material in her home country, Costa Rica, describing it as the most exotic material she could think of, and subsequently undertook an MA in glass at Edinburgh College of Art.

Rather than working with new glass, Juli finds repurposing found glass, or giving a second life to broken glass objects, more exciting. She combines fragments to create new forms with character, emotion and playfulness at the core. Drawing on her Latin American heritage in combination with Scottish and English traditions of cut glass and glass engraving, she makes use of machines which belonged to the Edinburgh Crystal factory.

Using her Jerwood award as an opportunity to take another step forward, Juli has worked on a bigger scale and incorporated lighting into her work.

'I wanted to challenge myself to work on a bigger scale and to make something that was not just pretty.'

This new installation pursues a relationship with nature displaying its colourful petal-like pieces above the viewer. *Musings* is inspired by her memories of Costa Rica, *'lying on your back in the garden and looking up into the canopy, admiring the patterns of the leaves moving in the wind and seeing the bees.'*

Twitter @julibd_com
Instagram @julibd_com
Web: www.julibd.com

Jessica Harrison

Jessica is an Edinburgh based sculptor who works with a wide range of materials including ceramic, marble, paint and digital collage.

The work in this exhibition is a development of her engagement with ceramics and ceramic collections, hand-built in porcelain – one of the most difficult clay bodies to work with.

This collection of sculptural objects is made of Parian porcelain. This very smooth, strong white clay was developed in Staffordshire in the nineteenth century and is named after Paros, the Greek island famous for its fine-textured white marble.

Using the concept of ceramic collections in both historic and contemporary contexts, Jessica has used her Jerwood award opportunity to recreate an anonymous Pinterest board showing a virtual collection of figurines and vessels made from Parian porcelain.

Parian ware, also known in nineteenth century Staffordshire as 'statuary ware' owing to its suitability for casting very precise, detailed figurines, has become something entirely different in Jessica's hands. *54 pins, 44 Followers* shows Jessica's direct pinching and coiling techniques and inclusion of the support structures, needed to keep the pieces upright through the making and firing process, as essential to the finished work.

'This gap between knowledge and making is one that is fascinating to me in my practice, and one that I exploit as a research tool and as an aesthetic choice. In following failures and unexpected results from processes threaded with mistakes, the fallibility of the body and the acts of making can be unpicked as something wonderful and fascinating.'

Instagram: @jessicaharrison.co.uk Web:
Web: www.jessicaharrison.co.uk

Marcin Rusak

Widely exhibited in the UK and internationally, London based artist Marcin Rusak is a recipient of many awards including The Architecture Digest Design Award 2016, and the Perrier-Jouët Arts Salon Prize 2015.

With a background in humanities and product design, Marcin is both sculptor and multidisciplinary designer with a part of his work referring to his father and grandfather's former flower growing business in Warsaw. He describes childhood memories of exploring empty glasshouses with, '*their textured and rough industrial materiality and the presence of disappearance and decay at every step.*' His work made during his time at the RCA looked at our wasteful consumption of flowers, discarding them when they start to wilt, while we use nature inspired motifs throughout our homes and on our clothing.

Despite a full order book for his mixed-media furniture pieces, Marcin has chosen to use his Jerwood award to explore decay and disintegration, a subject that interests him more than achieved permanence.

The pieces in this exhibition are made from a mix of organic waste (flowers), shellac, beeswax, various tree resins and steel, with sometime additions of flour, sugar and sand. Through exposure to natural conditions such as temperature and humidity fluctuation, the objects start to transform – they melt, collapse and rot, a process intrinsic to their creation. Marcin included steel in the work in the belief that it would offer contrasting permanence but he found that even steel is ephemeral, corroding, rusting and crumbling, with a similar beauty. Of this new collection of pieces, Marcin says, '*My heart is strongly related to these non-lasting projects.*'

Twitter: @MarcinRusak

Instagram: @marcinrusak

Web: www.marcinrusak.com

Laura Youngson Coll

Laura Youngson Coll is a London based artist who completed her MA in sculpture at the Royal College of Art in 2004. She was a finalist for the Woman's Hour Craft Prize 2017 and was winner of the Perrier-Jouët Arts Salon Prize in 2014.

Laura gained significant expertise through working with specialist bookbinders and leatherworkers in the world of bespoke interiors. These skills fed into her practice when she began to make intricate objects, inspired by lichen and other botanical organisms, using leather and vellum as her material of choice. A choice that is not entirely straightforward:

'I have always been conflicted about the material. I am a lifelong vegetarian. And the tanning process can be very wasteful. But vellum has become very important to me.'

Laura's work for Jerwood Makers Open reflects her creative freedom but is significantly a response to the death of her partner from cancer in 2015. She describes this work as a huge departure for her as up to this point she had never made work about her personal life.

Pathogenesis is an imagining of the mutated B cells, the first stage of her partner's illness. *Angiogenesis* is the second work, made in collaboration with haematology consultant Dr Graham Collins; this represents the lymphoma. *Regimen*, the final group of objects, conveys the contradictions of chemotherapy, both poison and panacea. It is, as Laura says, *'not so much an end to the narrative as an intimation of the complexity and confusion often felt in assimilating such an experience.'*

Instagram: @laurayoungsoncoll

Web: www.laurayoungsoncoll.co.uk

FURTHER INFORMATION

Web:

Further images and information about Jerwood Makers Open can be found on our website:

www.crafts.org.uk

And the Jerwood website:

<http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org/opportunities/jerwood-makers-open/>

Social:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/DevonGuildofCraftsmen/

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Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/devonguildcrafts/>
@devonguildcrafts

Learning:

Our venue in Bovey Tracey, Devon also offers the **Discover** level of **ARTS AWARD** for students and advisors.

We can help run hands-on workshops in a wide range of art, craft and design subjects, delivered by skilled workshop leaders, at your community group or learning venue. These could be in printmaking, ceramics, textiles, willow, paper, recycled materials, natural materials and mosaic. See Devon Guild's website for more information

We encourage visits from schools, colleges and community groups. Let us know in advance and we can arrange an introductory talk and tour of a particular exhibition.

Contact us on 01626 832223 phil.deburlet@crafts.org.uk

Devon Guild
of Craftsmen

JERWOOD CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION

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