

Press Release

MAKE2019

CONTEMPORARY CRAFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Saturday 16 November - Sunday 5 January

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



MAKE is the annual Christmas show at Devon Guild featuring the finest UK craft makers – and if you're inspired – there's a workshop to make your own felt slippers!

As the nights draw in, MAKE2019 promises a burst of colour. Shoppers can find uniquely hand made jewellery, textiles, glass, ceramics, metal, printmaking and paper crafts – all thoughtfully chosen following an open call. Laura Wasley, Exhibitions Manager, said: "With Christmas gifts in mind, we've selected from the best UK makers. Those chosen are individual, colourful and distinctive pieces."

The vibrant selling exhibition will feature over 50 makers including around 20 up and coming designer-makers such as Sam Isaacs and Mell Oliver. Both Mell and Sam (a recently new Member of the Guild), make the most of found and recycled materials in the bound notebooks and industrial lamps they create.

MAKE2019 is complemented by the Devon Guild shop which will display tempting Christmas crafts, decorations and gift wrap alongside a range of work by local Members. There's a Celebration Day on 7 December where the Guild will have live craft demos, tastings and is open until 8pm – for those who prefer a stress-free shopping experience, visitors can take time and focus on the more ethical gifts available here, handmade with care and each with a special story – which family and friends will love...

The Guild's winter season also brings a fascinating workshop by Green Shoes of Moretonhampstead. Who will show you how to create cosy slippers, using beautiful handmade felt made by Devon Guild Member Yuli Somme.

Here are details of three of this year's makers (below):

Sam Isaacs

Sam, a new Member of Devon Guild, makes upcycled lighting from a variety of objects and curiosities. Sam is a keen recycler and uses flotsam found on beach-cleans. He combines them to create new lamps. Sam celebrates the odd dent or chipped paintwork as it creates a patina and character only achieved over time. He revels in taking something useless, unloved or redundant and incorporating it into a new desirable item.



Rachel Smith

Rachel's love of 1970s mass produced tableware is reflected in her Wheel-thrown, high-fired stoneware. She creates a range of pots for plants and people that are individually decorated with vibrant, colourful motifs. All pots are functional, unique and fun.



Mell Oliver

Mell makes eco-conscious hand-bound journals, notebooks and eco-stationery, inspired by botanicals and the natural world. She uses UK-sourced materials such as 100% recycled paper, locally reclaimed second-hand leather and sustainable cork. Mell is inspired by the zero waste movement. She turns waste paper off-cuts into fresh sheets of handmade paper. Through the One Tree Planted project, for every journal sold one tree gets planted in a reforestation project in rural India.



A full exhibitor list is available on request/our website. Exhibition is free entry and open daily, 10am – 5.30pm

NOTES TO EDITORS

MAKE2019 is open to craftmakers from across the UK to submit their work for selection. Each year, a panel at the Devon Guild handpicks around 50 to feature in the show.

This year's theme is colour: the selectors focused on items which would brighten up the darkest days of the year.

Green Shoes will be running a felt slipper-making workshop on 23 November. Pre-booking is essential via the Devon Guild on 01626 832223. The cost is £55 and includes all materials. It's suitable for those over 10. Green Shoes was started in 1981 in Totnes Devon by a group of young women who were passionate about hand making strong, beautiful shoes that would last for years. Ethical production remains at the heart of our business philosophy.

Devon Guild of Craftsmen

Based in Bovey Tracey the Devon Guild is a popular contemporary crafts venue and charity based in the South West. Its unusual space at Riveraise Mill is a renowned hub for local communities and creative activities. The building houses two galleries and a shop with an exciting range of constantly changing displays. With a reputation and influence that extends nationally, the exhibitions and events are fun, open to all, inclusive and inspiring. The Guild is also a Membership organisation supporting 130 South West designer-makers. Its charitable branch runs an acclaimed educational outreach programme to schools and communities promoting engagement in practical craft and design skills. It is also involved in two popular annual festivals that have helped put Bovey Tracey on the map: *The Contemporary Craft Festival* (June) and *Nourish Festival* (Sept).

We have a large selection of excellent images of work by exhibitors so please contact Andrew North (Marketing Manager) andrew.north@crafts.org.uk or Anna Trussler (Marketing Officer) anna.trussler@crafts.org.uk and we can forward to you. Alternatively contact curator and Exhibitions Officer Sharyn Baker at Sharyn.baker@crafts.org.uk

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Top images clockwise from left: Faye Hall, *jewellery*; Katie Victoria, *textiles*; Lynda Shell, *textiles* and Ali Tomlin, *ceramics*