

Journeyman

Stories of craft from a bicycle

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

18th January –
8 March 2020

www.crafts.org.uk

**A new exhibition at
Devon Guild of
Craftsmen curated by
Nick Hand from The
Department of Small
Works.**



A collection of photography, film, and works by makers who dedicate their life to a particular craft or passion; The exhibition includes the Letterpress Printing Bike and prints from Nick's printshop, The Letterpress Collective.

Nick Hand, a Bristol based cyclist and graphic designer, has curated this exhibition of stories recorded from his travels across Britain, Ireland, Naples and New York's Hudson Valley, mostly on a bicycle. Starting in 2009, Nick cycled over 6,000 miles around the coast of Britain and Ireland, making over 100 films of people he met along the way. Since that journey, he has cycled 500 miles along the Hudson Valley; visited craftspeople across the UK as photographer and judge for the Balvenie Craft Awards; cycled around the coast of the Isle of Skye; visited heritage craftspeople in Naples; and, most recently, cycled from Land's End to John o'Groats on the printing bike stopping in places known for making one particular thing and collecting stories for the people dedicated to those crafts and trades.

The exhibition is a 10-year retrospective of Nick's collection of stories of craft and takes its name from his latest journey from Land's End to John o'Groats. Journeyman is a term used for a trained worker after finishing an apprenticeship who would take to the road with their union card to look for work. It was these tradespeople that inspired Nick to create a bespoke printing bicycle and embark on his latest journey. After a crowdfunding campaign in 2017, Nick worked with bicycle builder Robin Mather who hand-built a bicycle that could carry a printing press on the back. He set out to meet craftspeople from Land's End to John o'Groats in places known for making one thing such as pottery in St Ives, scissors in Sheffield, or tweed in the Isle of Lewis; in each place he printed postcards celebrating the various trades on the printing bike.

This exhibition at the Devon Guild brings to rural Devon, an important collection of stories from the craftsmen and women in the UK; ranging from a stickmaker in Lincolnshire to a coppersmith at the Balvenie Distillery on Speyside; from a printer in Shipley to a storyteller in County Down.

Journeyman re-tells and reveals these nearly lost crafts, some quickly fading from our heritage - told through photography, films, letterpress prints and words.

-ENDS-

For further information please contact: Margi Jervoise – margi.jervoise@crafts.org.uk Tel: 01626 832223

EVENTS at the Guild

Launch Party Sunday 19 January 2pm - 4pm

Traditional letterpress printing Workshop led by Nick Hand and Ellen Bills Sunday 2 February and Sunday 8 March - 10.30am - 3.30pm adults £50, book via Eventbrite

Exhibition is free and open daily, 10am-5.30pm

Additional information:

More event info: www.crafts.org.uk/exhibitions

Nick Hand and the LetterPress Collective website: <https://theletterpresscollective.org/>

Nick Hand/LetterPress Collective on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/theletterpresscollective/>

Image credit: Jonathan Cherry – Nick Hand and his bicycle

Notes for Editors

Devon Guild of Craftsmen

Based in Bovey Tracey the Devon Guild is the most popular contemporary crafts venue and charity in the South West (130,000 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, 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. The Devon Guild is involved in two popular annual festivals that have helped put Bovey Tracey on the map: **The Contemporary Craft Festival** (June) and **Nourish Festival** (Sept).

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Nick Hand, The Department of Small Works and The Letterpress Collective

Nick Hand is a born and bred Bristolian. He trained as a typographer at Stafford Art College and Bristol Polytechnic and now works as a designer, photographer and letterpress printer. Nick is the director of The Department of Small Works which he set up as a home for design, photography and print. In 2013, Nick set up the Department's very own printshop The Letterpress Collective following the closure Bristol's commercial letterpress printer after 600 years of continuous work in the city. As the Letterpress Collective, Nick and Ellen Bills teach both type composition and printing skills alongside producing beautiful letterpress print work as commission or for their own projects. The Collective has gathered together beautiful wood and lead type as well as a collection of amazing printing presses including a lovely Heidelberg Windmill Platen, a Stephenson Blake proofing press and a set of Adana hand presses. Nick is a keen cyclist and his interest in craft, printing and stories has led to a collection of words and images of over 200 artists, makers and craftspeople. He has published five collections of stories from his projects, including *Journeyman* which is his most recent book; the publication is entirely letterpress printed and brings together words and original artworks for his latest journey from Land's End to John o'Groats.

www.departmentofsmallworks.co.uk