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# NSW **craft**matters

*the newsletter of craft nsw*

ISSUE 10 - JANUARY 2012

## Fusions *enamellers on fire*



*As part of the City of Sydney Chinese New Year Festival in 2012, Craft NSW is hosting the Enamellers Association together with members of the Society of Arts and Crafts in an all-crafts exhibition, January 17 to February 12 at Craft NSW, 104 George Street, The Rocks.*



Mary Raymond

Enamelling is old. Over 3000 years old. And no, it does not refer to paint.

Enamel is powdered glass fused to metal at temperatures in excess of 750 degrees centigrade. Many firings (as many as 20) are involved to achieve the depth of colour and sumptuous surfaces associated with the art form.

The glass is a mixture of silica, soda ash, potash, borax and specific metal oxides that are needed to make the colours - oxides of magnesium, barium, lead, zinc, aluminium and tin.

Enamels are either transparent, opalescent or opaque and the most preferred metals by jewellers and enamellers are

*continued next page*

Craft Matters features informative snips, clips, tips and images about craft. If you or your organisation have a craft event of any kind in NSW, an image or a craft story, submit it for free inclusion in future issues of Craft Matters. [Please email your interest](#). And of course, your suggestions and feedback are always welcome.

The Society of Arts and Crafts of NSW is a not-for-profit organisation formed in 1906, to encourage and promote arts and crafts, encourage the use of Australian culture, materials and motif in work and design and provide opportunities for the exhibition and sale of work of members and others. [visit our website](#).



copper, silver and gold. Once fused to the metal, enamels are permanent and if handled properly, will last for centuries.

The ancient Egyptians applied enamels to pottery and stone objects; the ancient Greeks and Celts to metals and the Romans on to glass vessels.

The middle ages saw the spread of enamelling and the use of other techniques including champleve, cloisonne, basse-taille, and ronde-bosse. The cloisonne technique reached China around the 14th century where it remains popular to this day.

In more recent times, enamels have become associated with such names as Faberge and Stubbs and with Art Nouveau. Many fine examples are in European and American museums.

Enamellers learn techniques which draw heavily on the traditional methods passed down through the centuries.

Enamelling has changed markedly over the last decades. Students in the 60's and 70's were content to use pre-formed shapes with surface decoration. The 80's saw an integration of form and

surface, the 90's saw an expansion of materials, styles and techniques.

Enamelling is now valued for its ideas, inventiveness and content and is seen in jewellery, vessels, objects and installations.

Enamels are the reward of patience. It is an immensely satisfying craft, as simple as an enamel mug or pie plate or as complex as an intricate cloisonne art form. The surface is glossy, brilliant and tactile.

If you are interested in learning more about enamelling come along to 'Fusions' - it presents a wide variety of approaches that demonstrate the strength and breadth of enamel art today.



Rowena Lai



Irene Garran 'Dragon'



## The Enamellers Association

The Enamellers Association was formed in 1979 and although Sydney based, welcomes interstate and international members. The Association has counted among its membership some of the country's foremost practitioners in the art of enamelling.

The Enamellers Association aims to create public awareness and understanding of the medium. There are regular meetings to discuss techniques and organise workshops and exhibitions.

It provides a resource about available classes in art and craft institutions and recommends

independent enamelling instructors.

The Association works in conjunction with enamelling groups from other states to access overseas tutors who will then give workshops and demonstrations throughout Australia. Many of the Association members have their work on sale in galleries in all Australian states and overseas.

Exhibiting in 'Fusions' at Craft NSW, are Mary Raymond, Heather Calnan, Jimmy Lim, Rowena Lai, Ann Thomson, Irene Garran, Sally Aplin, Laura Haszard, Annette Clarke and Lyndan Blackman.

Visit the Association at [enamellers.com.au](http://enamellers.com.au) or contact [secretary@enamellers.com.au](mailto:secretary@enamellers.com.au)



Heather Calnan 'Desolation'



Heather Calnan 'Abstract'

Heather Calnan

*Heather is interested in pushing the three elements: heat metal and glass, to their limits and integrating enamels in mixed media. She relaxes by researching techniques, is influenced by information on other crafts, and seeks enamel experiences while travelling.*

*Her recent work includes fold forming and tooling of thin copper, ceramic inclusions of broken china, sand and rock pieces, and inlays of wire mesh and glass stringers.*

*Her pieces are experimental, textured and innovative and give pleasure and satisfaction in the making, and excitement in the discovery and use of varying techniques.*



Mary Raymond detail



Mary Raymond

*I love enamel. For me, enamel was love at first sight. A friend showed me a few samples she made at night school and I instantly knew that this was what I wanted to do.*

*I love the glowing colours achieved by firing layers of transparent glass onto copper. The light shines through the glass and is reflected back by the copper. What I also like about enamel is that there are so many techniques to explore or create by experimentation.*

*Enamel is often used to enhance a piece of jewellery but I prefer to work larger. Enamel has been a wonderful journey for me selling my work in various galleries and progressing to large corporate murals.*

*I think there is one more reason. I am a frog and the studio is always lovely and warm in winter.*



Mary Raymond top 'Desert Dunes', bottom, bowl



Laura Haszard

*A few years ago, I discovered the art of enamelling and have been working exclusively with it ever since. I usually work in themes, currently exploring both nature and cityscapes, either representational or abstract.*

*I work mainly in the centuries old techniques of cloisonné and champlevé. Cloisonné is where silver wire is formed into cells that make up a design, and these are then filled with glass.*

*Champlevé, on the other hand, involves the creation of recesses or raised fields in the silver through etching, engraving, embossing or piercing and soldering. These fields are then filled with glass.*

*I use mainly Japanese transparent powdered glass enamel because of the vibrant colour range they offer. The brilliance of the transparent glass on silver is so beautiful.*

*I use fine silver in my designs to enhance that effect, as fine silver does not oxidise in the kiln.*

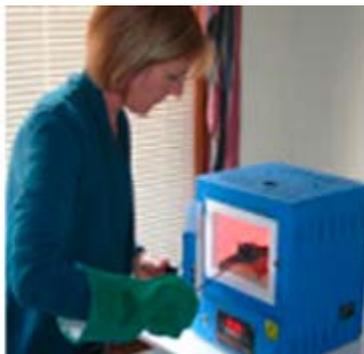
*Each piece takes between 8-24 hours to complete depending on the complexity and size of the design.*



Laura Haszard 'Vietnam'



Laura Haszard 'City'



Laura Haszard



Ally Aplin 'Shelter'



Jimmy Lim 'Rivers of Life'



Annette Clark



Sally Aplin 'Reflective Garden'

Enamelling Workshops

Workshop Arts Centre,  
33 Laurel Street, Willoughby

***Introduction to Enamelling  
Two Day Workshops***

tutor: Sally Aplin  
email: [sallyaplin@gmail.com](mailto:sallyaplin@gmail.com)  
phone 9958 6540 for booking  
Cost \$180

Mon 9 & Tues 10 January 10am-4pm  
Wed 11 & Thurs 12 January 10am-4pm  
Thurs 19 & Fri 20 January 10am-4pm  
Sat 21 & Sun 22 January 10am-4pm



**Robin Phillips** 'Watercourse II'



**Robin Phillips** 'Water Journey'

**Robin Phillips**

*I really love every aspect of making jewellery ... from working out the technicalities of a design on paper to seeing that design through to a completed piece. Every stage of the process is still exciting to me.*

*When it stops being exciting I'll probably stop making jewellery. Cloisonne enamelling for me is just the icing on the cake for a craft that I love.*

*I treat my enamels as I would a painting. As well as being well crafted beautiful objects, I want them to tell a story. Colour, texture and three-dimensional fluidity of form is what drew me to work with precious metals, gem stones and cloisonne. Natural imagery such as landscapes, light, movement, organic shapes and simplicity of form continually inspire my work.*

*I enjoy designing and creating my jewellery around a specific theme or stone. Often the stone dictates the direction the piece will take. I like using gold and silver together which adds depth, dimension and beautiful colour variations.*



**Robin Phillips** top 'Flower', bottom 'Heart'

## TUITION

Tutor	Craft	Email	Workshop information
Pam de Groot	Felting, beginner - advanced	pamdegroot.fibre@gmail.com	Please contact tutor direct
Jenny Hopper	Nuno felting and dyeing, beginner - advanced	jennyhopper@tsn.cc	Please contact tutor direct
Jude Skeers	Hand knitting - hats moebius etc	judeskeers@hotmail.com	Please book via website
Penel Bigg	Flamework, beadmaking, beadweaving with seed beads	firebirdbeads@gmail.com	Please contact the tutor direct
Sandra Shaw	Screenprinting workshops	sandra.shaw2@bigpond.com	Please contact the tutor direct
Val Aked	Silverwork classes	9975 3734	Please contact the tutor direct
Carolyn Delzoppo	Cloisonne enamel	see website for information	www.carolyndelzoppo.com.au
Helen Beale	Basketry	helen@helenbeale.com	Please contact the tutor direct
Christine Thompson	Fabric hats, fascinators, silk flowers, beginner - advanced	christineyarker@hotmail.com	Please contact the tutor direct

## EXHIBITIONS



### JCA Steel Bookbinding Design Competition 2011

This exhibition of books follows the JCA Steel Bookbinding Design Competition, a prize to promote interest in bookbinding and the connections between the handbound book and design. All Australian bookbinders were encouraged to enter, with no restrictions on binding style or materials used.

**when:** 3 January - 31 January 2012

**where:** Leichhardt Municipal Council Library, 23 Norton St, Leichhardt

**info:** p Monica on 0409 310 515 w [nswbookbinders.blogspot.com](http://nswbookbinders.blogspot.com)



### Menagerie: Contemporary Indigenous Sculpture

A unique exhibition, featuring 33 established and emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, who have each produced outstanding sculptural works depicting a variety of animals. These artists, drawn from every Australian state and territory, were selected by curators Nicole Foreshew and Brian Parkes after months of research and travel seeking to expose the richness and breadth of contemporary Indigenous sculpture in Australia.

**when:** 13 January - 4 March 2012

**where:** Civic Centre, cnr Baylis and Morrow Sts, Wagga Wagga

**info:** w [waggaartgallery.org](http://waggaartgallery.org)



### Sue Wood: Secrets and Lives

Through stitched textiles, artists books and 'cabinets of domestic curiosities', Sue Wood's work reflects on the lives of women who lived in the Australian bush, the nature of women's domestic activities and the purposes they serve, and the secrets that lie behind closed doors.

**when:** 20 January - 5 March 2012

**where:** Civic Centre, cnr Baylis and Morrow Sts, Wagga Wagga

**info:** w [waggaartgallery.org](http://waggaartgallery.org)



### 2011 Meroogal Art Prize

Established in 1998 by the Historic Houses Trust, the competition is open to women of the South Coast and Southern Highlands. Entrants are invited to explore the objects in the Meroogal collection to draw inspiration for their submission. In 2011 they were asked to respond creatively to the theme 'made by hand' in one of the genres of visual arts, crafts or design.

**when:** until 26 January 2012

**where:** HHT Members Lounge, The Mint, 10 Macquarie St, Sydney

**info:** w [hht.net.au](http://hht.net.au)



sabbia gallery  
Australian Studio Glass & Ceramics



### Fusions

Work by Society members together with guest enamellists from the Enamellers Association, an associated event of City of Sydney's Chinese New Year of the Dragon celebration.

**when:** 17 January - 12 February 2012

**where:** *Craft NSW 104 George Street, The Rocks, Sydney*

**info:** p 9241 5825 w [artsandcraftsnsw.com.au](http://artsandcraftsnsw.com.au)

### Storytelling - Annual Glass Masters

Glass works from Mel George, Alasdair Gordon, Kevin Gordon, Tony Hanning, Mi Kyoung Jung and Ruth Olip.

**when:** 18 January - 11 February 2012

**where:** *Sabbia Gallery, 120 Glenmore Road, Paddington, Sydney*

**info:** p 02 9361 6448 w [sabiagallery.com](http://sabiagallery.com)

### Colours of the Country II: The Alice Springs Beanie Festival

The beanie is an icon of Australian headwear and has been celebrated by the Alice Springs Beanie Festival since 1996. This collection of beanies from the Alice Springs Beanie Festival demonstrates the growth of the beanie as an art form over the years and the imagination, creativity and fine craftsmanship presented in each piece.

**when:** until 22 January 2012

**where:** *Maitland Regional Art Gallery, 230 High Street, Maitland*

**info:** p 02 4934 9859 w [mrag.org.au](http://mrag.org.au)

### The Narrative Knot - Stories in Ceramics & PROMotion

The Australian Ceramics Association's Biennial Exhibition 2011. Curated by Gerry Wedd. The idea of the 'narrative knot' implies interlocking or interweaving stories or, and about, making ceramics.

**when:** until 22 January 2012

**where:** *Manly Art Gallery and Museum, West Esplanade Reserve, Manly*

**info:** p 02 9976 1421 w [gallery.manlyaustralia.com.au](http://gallery.manlyaustralia.com.au)

### Australia Wide Two

This travelling exhibition showcases the talents of members of Ozquilt Network and demonstrates the scope and variety of art quilting in Australia and reflect the personal experiences, styles and attitudes of the makers.

**when:** 6 February - 26 February

**where:** *The 'Q' Exhibition Space - Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre, Queanbeyan*

**info:** w [ozquiltnetwork.org.au](http://ozquiltnetwork.org.au)

### Parallels

Parallels is an installation of contemporary textiles by Barbara Rogers, exploring the diversity and language of the graphic stripe pattern. The stripe is a versatile communication tool, timeless, gender-neutral and has been used as social, political, cultural and religious signifiers.

**when:** 10 February - 24 March 2012

**where:** *Craft ACT Craft and Design Centre, 1st Floor, North Building, 180 London Circuit, Canberra*

**info:** p 02 6262 9333 w [www.craftact.org](http://www.craftact.org)

### Elements: leather

Elements is a dynamic series of group exhibitions celebrating the Centre's 40th birthday. The sixth in the series, Elements: leather, highlights invited artists Penny Amberg, Linda Davy, Colin Lee and Judy Parker.

**when:** 10 February - 24 March 2012

**where:** *Craft ACT Craft and Design Centre, 1st Floor, North Building, 180 London Circuit, Canberra*

**info:** p 02 6262 9333 w [www.craftact.org](http://www.craftact.org)



### White gums and ramoxes: ceramics by Merric and Arthur Boyd

This exhibition presents the work of potter Merric Boyd and that of his son, artist Arthur Boyd, focussing on two characteristic motifs used by the artists: Merric was preoccupied with interpretations of trees, while Arthur's 'ramox' is typical of his interest in metamorphosed and hybrid figures.

**when:** 10 February - 25 March 2012

**where:** Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, First Street, Booragul

**info:** p 02 4965 8260 w [lakemac.com.au](http://lakemac.com.au)

### Hello Dollies

From innocent childhood toy to powerful stereotype, the symbol significance of dolls shapes and reflects both personal identity as well as societal and cultural tradition.

**when:** 11 February - 22 April

**where:** Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest, 86 River Road, Emu Plains

**info:** p 02 4735 1100w [penrithregionalgallery.org](http://penrithregionalgallery.org)

### Tutti - New glass from Ben Edols and Kathy Elliott

One of the longest and most successful partnerships in contemporary studio glass is Ben Edols & Kathy Elliott. This highly anticipated exhibition Tutti presents a new body of work which draws on their impressive skills with glass.

**when:** 29 February - 25 March 2012

**where:** Sabbia Gallery, 120 Glenmore Road, Paddington, Sydney

**info:** p 02 9361 6448 w [sabiagallery.com](http://sabiagallery.com)

## CRAFT WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

### context art - april 2012

TAFTA's annual April FORUM moves to the Blue Mountains for 2012. Both 2-day and 4-day workshops are offered with a total of 29 tutors.

**when:** 14 - 20 April 2012

**where:** Korowal School in Hazlebrook and Springwood High School

**further info:** [forum.tafta.org.au](http://forum.tafta.org.au) or download [enrolment form](#)

### summer school 2012

January 2012 workshops, including weaving, felting, braiding and much more from the Hand Weavers and Spinners Guild of NSW

**when:** various dates January 2012

**where:** Church Hall behind St Paul's, 205 Burwood Road Burwood

**further info:** [workshops hand weavers and spinners guild of nsw](#)

### the international millinery forum

Millinery designers to the world's celebrities are coming together for a special event to share their design secrets and intricate skills with budding milliners across the country. For further information, email

[millineryforum@bigpond.com](mailto:millineryforum@bigpond.com)

**when:** 14 - 21 January 2012

**where:** Wagga Wagga High School, Wagga Wagga

**further info:** [2012 international millinery forum](#)

## CONTACT US

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