



NSW craft matters

the newsletter of craft nsw

ISSUE 3 - APRIL 2010



*To be is to be perceived - George Berkeley

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**.

And of course, your suggestions and feedback are always welcome.

Please email your [interest](#).

The Society of Arts and Crafts of NSW is a not for profit organisation, formed in 1906, among other things, 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](#)

Walking the Walk

Established in the 1950s, ARTEXPRESS is a renowned annual exhibition of exemplary artwork by NSW Higher School Certificate Visual Arts students in a broad range of media, subject matter and expression.

Craft NSW hosted sculptures by **Natalie Fong** from Strathfield Girls High School and **Andrew Arena** from Cecil Hills High School.

And their work could not have been more different - Andrew's slightly disturbing paper clay amputated arms and Natalie's decorative, bling-like wire commentary on fashion trends. Not surprisingly, both attracted lots of interest.

Natalie was introduced to wire work a few years ago and found that it gave her the freedom to explore the effect of space in art while allowing her to 'incorporate meaning into the miniature'.

Paying close attention to the 'aesthetics of wearables', she starts with a basic frame and adds detailed pieces to form a 'skin' or patterned surface incorporating many techniques to manipulate the wire.

Her sculpture, *'You talk the talk but can you walk the walk?'* shows her interest in both fashion design and visual arts. Each pair of shoes is an

interpretation of her generation's trends in self expression.

Natalie is now in the first year of a Visual Arts degree and hopes to create jewellery that can 'be appreciated as a work of art'.

In contrast, Andrew's sculpture, *'Esse est Percipi'* *, is concerned with the nature of reality.

As he puts it: *'Truth is only known through our own subjective psyche. An object cannot be, but rather be perceived. Objective reality is dismantled, as we cannot know truth or reality, but rather experience and interpret it for ourselves.... thus realism versus abstraction is fundamental to this piece.'*

Andrew found that sculpting in clay came naturally to him even as he struggled with it's delicacy. He is pursuing a psychology degree.

The craftsmanship of Natalie's wire pieces and the power of Andrew's paper clay belie their youth and relative inexperience and we look forward to what they might create in the future.



TANIA BRUCKNER



Ceramics on the Coast

The old cliché about artists working alone in a garret is not altogether without foundation and working for hours on end in the studio is indeed a solitary occupation. On the other hand, there is a lot to be said for the opportunity to share techniques, discuss processes and get support from fellow artists



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A group of ceramicists in the north coast of NSW felt the need to network with colleagues, access expertise and increase technical skill levels (and have some fun along the way) and in 2003 formed Coastal ClayMakers. Today, with over 50 members and access to the world-class facilities of the Ceramics Department at Coffs Harbour

TAFE, this enthusiastic group of craftsmen and women get together to promote and encourage the study of ceramics by means of lectures, discussions, excursions, projects and practical workshops.

Past presenters include notables Peter Rushforth, Melina Monks, Marea Gazzard, Geoff Maddams, David Tucker, Mitsuo Shoji and Jane Annois.



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1. Lisa Magri 'Trullo Duo'
2. Shirley Stubington 'Vessels'
3. Ann Streckfuss 'Reflection'
4. Debora Grigg Hawkes 'Reflection'
5. Annette Copland 'Leaf Bowl'
6. Phillip Greed, 'untitled'
7. Sally Hooke 'China Girl in a Chair'

Upcoming workshops in May include Paul Davis and Jaqui Clayton (see our calendar of events).

Coastal ClayMakers have an extensive website at: www.coastalclaymakers.com.au



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Why bother doing craft?

We've been asking craft practitioners why they bother doing craft at all when mass production can make things so much faster at a fraction of the price. If you are already practicing a craft, perhaps this will remind you why you are doing it. If you have yet to try a craft, maybe this will encourage you to take the chance and jump.



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Greg Sugden ceramics

When I was in high school, I read an essay that affected the rest of my life. The essay: *The Superannuated Man* was penned by Charles Lamb in 1825. The first sentence tells it all: *'If peradventure, Reader, it has been thy lot to waste the golden years of thy life - thy shining youth - in the irksome confinement of an office...'*

After prolonging my tertiary studies and following a brief stint as a superannuated man at the patent office, I have my wife, Merrie Hamilton, to thank (or blame) for introducing me to an alternative way to make a living - ceramics.

For over 30 years now, I have made my living as a craftsperson. It has been most rewarding in terms of giving

me something interesting to do each day while I explore the medium and gives vent to the urge I have to create. It has also meant that I have the sense that my life and my time are my own. For me, that is most important.

A problem with being a professional craftsperson is that of maintaining outlets, as galleries come and go. We solved this problem 17 years ago by opening our own studio/gallery in Braidwood. It allows me the freedom to make what I want and to engage with my customers.

Few people are rich in both time and money until their *'shining youth'* is long behind them. Craft has been around since the dawn of humanity and I for one intend to help keep it alive. And in the process, keep myself truly alive.

Greg Sugden www.sugdenhamilton.com

1. Heather Calnan *enamel*
2. Wendy Cartwright *woven wrap*
3. Geoff Davis *braided belt*
4. Grace Levis *ceramic/glass necklace, dress*
5. Greg Sugden *'Tiger Moth' ceramic*



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Cherry Steele *felting*

Since having my daughter 4 years ago (life changing experience at my age!!) I found it 'tricky' to continue painting or doing pottery (messy with a toddler).

Once I was introduced to merino fleece and the process of wet felting it was love at first touch and sight. I can now create unique items in stunning, bright colours or muted pastels without the mess of paint. And I can mould the wet fleece to any shape without the mess of muddy clay or the hassle and cost of firing. It is extremely fulfilling and family friendly! I do felting with a wonderful group of women (Butterfly Felt) here on the Central Coast. I love it!

... I have tutored and mentored art at assorted establishments. I have dabbled in all creative outlets over the years and now am a fanatic felter... bags, berets, wraps, scarves, etc... love this medium!

Cherry Steele

www.cherryart.com.au



Ally models 'Sea Pod' felted wrap, merino wool

Why bother doing craft?

Karen McPhee *studio glass*



To craft is to create. To craft is the will to act and obtain results through the interaction of ideas and materials.

Just as one uses notation for music, or words to stylise text, the wondrous feature of crafting is personal direction and individual approach.

To craft is to physically bring thoughts into existence, and glass is just one medium that allows me this process. Using an explorative, hands-on approach that is

developing with time, I am able to work the material and apply my thoughts by means of coloured glazes and kiln forming techniques. The search for resolution by honing and shaping my ideas is an addiction, an obsession and a passion.

'Why bother' when for example a glass bowl can be purchased from the 'two dollar shop' and is viewed as an object and form in its own right? It is likely though, to be produced with the precision of a machine and repeated in multitude.

In contrast, each glass bowl that is individually crafted, will address equivalent contextual considerations such as shape and form, light and colour and inherent qualities of transparency, translucency and opacity. The distinction for me is the hand crafted bowl is a one-of-a-kind, original and unique, as is the creation of the act of its crafting.

'Using the creative impulse as a tool, we work in our own small way to shape the world in a positive direction, and in the process, participate in its destiny.'

Oppi Untracht

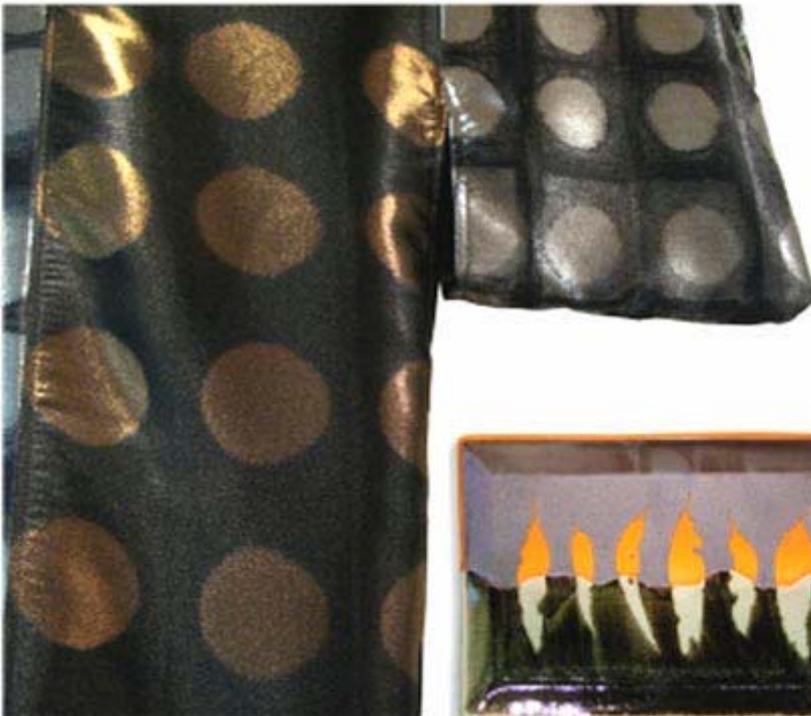
Karen McPhee

www.karenmcpheeglass.com

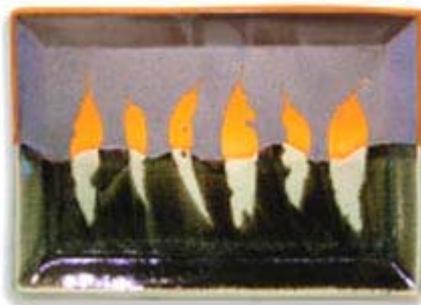
new **craft**
made in
NSW



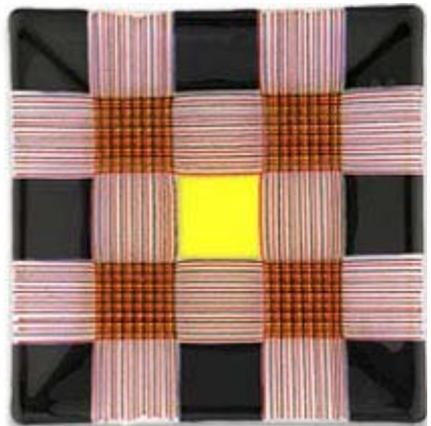
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1. Pat Hayward *soneware* clay with vitrified slips and crackle glazes
2. Margaret Ramsey *layered and fused sheet glass*
3. Carolyn Cabena *nylon & metallic fabric, black resist dye, shibori*
4. Christine Ball *high fired stoneware*
5. Gaspar Del Rey *moulded cowhide leather mask, pigskin lining*



Grace Levis *wool felted wrap*
Rosanne Antico-Hall *acrylic bangles*

NOT NAKED

Latest work in **fibre, glass and jewellery** by artists **Grace Levis, Margaret Ramsey and Rosanne Antico-Hall**.

When 29 March to 11 April, 2010

Where Craft NSW 104 George Street The Rocks Sydney 2000

Information www.artsandcraftsnsw.com.au/exhibitions.htm



Heidi Francis *'Dovercotes' - recollections of France in handbuilt paper clay*

WORLD OF COLOURS

The wonderfully coloured world of **handpainted silks** by **Jane Hinde**, the **ceramics** of **Heidi Francis**, **fine jewellery** of **Margaret Conway** and the **embroidery** of **Christine Molesworth**.

When 12 April to 25 April, 2010

Where Craft NSW 104 George Street The Rocks Sydney 2000

Information www.artsandcraftsnsw.com.au/exhibitions.htm



Glen Doyle *'Cockatoo' wirework sculpture*

THREE DIMENSIONS

Sculptural influences on craft with a broad spectrum of **Society members working in three dimensions: glass bowls, basketry objects, timber vessels, ceramic containers**.

When 27th April to 4th July, 2010

Where Craft NSW 104 George Street The Rocks Sydney 2000

Information www.artsandcraftsnsw.com.au/exhibitions.htm

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	firebird@gmail.com	Please contact the tutor direct
Sandra Shaw	Screenprinting workshops	sandra.shaw2@bigpond.com	Please contact the tutor direct
Valerie 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

<p>Beginners' Course - Level 1 24 and 25 April 2010</p>	For more information contact: NSW Guild of Craft Bookbinders .
<p>Book Repairs 29 May 2010</p>	For more information contact: NSW Guild of Craft Bookbinders .
<p>Beginners' Course - Level 2 19 June 20 June 2010</p>	For more information contact: NSW Guild of Craft Bookbinders .
<p>Proposed Workshop with Jacqueline de Jonge 6 and 7 June 2010</p>	The Guild is proposing a two day workshop with Dutch tutor Jacqueline de Jonge is who is teaching in Australia with the Barbara Meredith Trust. For more information contact: Quilters Guild of NSW Inc.
<p>Coptic and Other Stitched Book Bindings Tutor: Annette Moylan 17 April 2010</p>	For more information contact: Embroiders Guild of NSW
<p>Canvas Embroidery Tutor: Maureen Hazlewood 17 and 18 April 2010</p>	For more information contact: Embroiders Guild of NSW
<p>Smocking - Half Doll Tutor: Onita Pollitt 19 and 24 April 2010</p>	For more information contact: Embroiders Guild of NSW
<p>Embroidered Box Tutor: Nola Moran 15 and 22 May 2010</p>	For more information contact: Embroiders Guild of NSW
<p>Hot Textiles Tutor: Kim Thittichai 20 April 2010</p>	Author of 'Hot Textiles', Kim Thittichai, from the UK, has been engaged to conduct two special 1-day workshops at Dence Park. They will be identical in content. The emphasis will be on Kim demonstrating and sharing her ideas on new techniques, with participants enjoying the day experimenting and applying these techniques to all the latest materials for surface decoration and 3D work. For more information contact: Australian Textile and Surface Design Association Inc.
<p>Nuno Felting Tutor: Jenny Hopper 22 and 23 May 2010</p>	Be creative and have fun designing textures and surface embellishment with fibres and fabrics while making felt. Participants will develop a range of techniques appropriate to their skill level and experience. They will plan and make their own piece(s) according to that skill level. This makes the workshop suitable for both those who have made felt before and wish to advance their skills, as well as for those who are beginners. For more information contact: Australian Textile and Surface Design Association Inc.
<p>Dabble, Dazzle and Distort - Designing with your Overlocker Tutor: Anne van der Kley 10 and 11 July 2010</p>	We all love to experiment and create textile treasures to add texture and dimension to our art work. Whether you prefer to dabble in dye, overwhelm with hand or machine stitch, fashion with knit or crochet, tit for tat, dip into felt or transform with quilting, this workshop will provide a medium to suit your needs, and an opportunity to increase your current repertoire of textile skills. Develop a range of new elements for your textile practice as you design, dabble and doodle with threads and fibres and dedicate time to increase your current repertoire of textile skills. Working with your overlocker as your primary textile tool, you will discover how to create a range of designer cords. For more information contact: Australian Textile and Surface Design Association Inc.
<p>Beginners Leathercraft Tutor: Kim Melit, Owen Hartshorn, Geoff Davis, Ken Marshall 29 and 30 May 2010</p>	For more information contact: Leatherworkers Guild of NSW

Paper Jewellery and other Structures

24 and 25 April 2010

Under the guidance of Scottish artist Anna King..., the interesting workshop will be an opportunity to take the imaginative leap to exploit the qualities of paper to make exciting and enduring paper jewellery. The two day workshop will just be the first step on a journey of exploration, a paper trail of discovery. Different papers will be examined closely for their own qualities and potential. An extensive range of samples and models will be made with the ultimate goal of some finished pieces. Three basic techniques will be covered: 1. Japanese square and octagonal braiding, 2. Origami beads, and 3 Plaiting and knotting For more information contact: [Primrose Park Art and Craft Centre](#).

Coastal ClayMakers

Tutor: Paul Davis and Jacqui Clayton

28-29 and 30 May 2010

Friday night, then Saturday, Sunday and a bit of Monday - woodfiring at the TAFE Ceramics facility, Coffs Harbour with Paul and his partner Jacqui Clayton. Jacqui is head of ceramics at Sydney University. They propose giving a joint talk entitled 'A Tale of Two Cities' built around their trip to Japan and China last year. Paul suggests that during the workshop he would also talk about glazes and throw a pot or two.... He will stay until Monday to open the kiln and talk about the results. For more information contact: [Coastal ClayMakers Inc](#).



ORANGE TEXTILE FORUM

Visit the Textile FORUM during the week of 11 - 17 April

The event is open to the public: 8:30am - 5pm Monday - Friday. Visit the large array of merchants with all manner of textile-related materials and equipment, enrol in workshops, see the class displays.

When Saturday April 17th, 9am - 12 noon

Where Kinross-Wolaroi School 59 Bathurst Road, Orange - Anderson Building and Derek Pigot Hall. The Orange Textile Forum is an initiative of TAFTA Ltd.

Information [Textile Fibre Forum](#)



Textile Surface Design: Martha Catano, Sandra Shaw, Carolyn Cabena, Helga Muschinski

CONTACT US

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We welcome material you wish to submit for publication and appreciate your feedback, comments and suggestions. Please email: newsletter@artsandcraftsnsw.com.au

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