

THE MAKING®

Working across the Curriculum

These resources are intended for use by teachers to help you get started with making in the classroom.

The information was supplied by the artists who contributed to the *Skills in the Making* workshop programme 2009-12, funded by The Paul Hamlyn Foundation.



Image: 'Abutilon' by Rob Kessler

Introduction

Contemporary craft makers are increasingly working across disciplines to investigate the natural and scientific world or to address contemporary issues and ideas. Using these artists as case studies creative links can be made between art and science, english, maths, citizenship, drama, dance, biology and history amongst other subject areas.

For example, **Rob Kessler** manipulates images of plants derived from electron microscopy to present the complexity and beauty of the natural world. **Helen Carnac's** work focuses on how making can inform our approaches to the world, our philosophy and ideology. **Caroline Broadhead** collaborates with dancers and choreographers to produce one-off live performances and installations.

To see images of the work of The Making's cross-curricular artists, and the ideas that inform their work go to:

Rob Kessler: art and science

Rob Kessler is Professor of Ceramic Art and Design at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design but is far from being a conventional potter, often working with photography and digital images rather than clay. His work bridges the art-science divide and he calls himself an artist, explaining that 'I work in the area where craft, art and design overlap'. The theme that links Kessler's wide-ranging body of work is his overwhelming fascination with plant material and the natural world.

www.themaking.org.uk/Content/makers/2007/05/rob_kessler.html

The Making Contemporary Art Craft and Design,
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www.robkessler.co.uk

www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBU42JC3xo4 An impression of life observed around Lisbon and under the microscopes at the Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência
www.guardian.co.uk/science/gallery/2008/sep/23/fruit.seeds.royal.institution?picture=337716620 Rob Kessler and Wolfgang Stuppy reveal the strange and ingenious methods plants use to disperse their seeds and ensure their survival

Helen Carnac: thinking through making (craft and citizenship)

Helen Carnac works as lecturer, writer, curator, conference organizer and teacher, but her primary interest is her work as a craftsperson. Although she originally trained as a silversmith, Carnac defines herself as a maker. She co-curated the Craftspace Touring exhibition "Taking Time: Craft and the Slow Revolution" (2009) which takes as its starting point the issues emerging from the Slow Movement, which developed as a response to our increasingly fast lifestyles and our unsustainable consumer culture. Slowness is also associated with craft skills: skill which is acquired over time that cannot be rushed and is intuitively learned.

www.themaking.org.uk/Content/makers/2009/10/helen_carnac.html

www.makingaslowrevolution.wordpress.com

www.takingtime.org

Caroline Broadhead: craft and performance

Caroline Broadhead has developed a multi-disciplinary practice. She works across the fields of the fine and applied arts and regularly collaborates with choreographers producing installations for live performance. She was awarded the Jerwood Prize for Applied Arts in 1997 and was winner of the Textiles International Open in 2004. Her work is included in numerous public collections internationally. She is Course Director of Jewellery at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design.

http://www.themaking.org.uk/Content/makers/2009/11/caroline_broadhead.html

<http://angelawoodhouse.co.uk/recent-past-work/sighted/>

<http://www.yorkstmarys.org.uk/Page/ViewInstallation.aspx?CollectionId=6>

Craft and Science: Introduction

Rob Kessler's work focuses on images of plants and their structure; sometimes they are applied to ceramic or textiles, or stand alone. Explorations of the structure of seeds or pollen grains, the images are based on scientific microscopic black and white digital photographs to which he adds computer generated heightened colour to create pieces that will draw in the viewers in the same way as "a bee is drawn to the colours of a flower." The images are manipulated to reveal what was previously invisible, resulting in what Kessler calls "assisted reality".

Science: Specialist websites

www.nhm.ac.uk Natural History Museum

www.ted.com contains talks from leaders in the field of technology, science and design

www.bioclips.com explores and displays information on the microscopic world of cells

www.exploratorium.edu/who/artists science website with a section for artists,

information about microscopic imaging and much more

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www.cytographics.com/sg.html cells stills gallery
www.hhmi.org/coolscience/ site with useful science education tips
www.microscopyu.com/galleries images of cells and information on digital imaging
www.molecularmovies.com directory of cell and molecular animations,
www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_drori_every_pollen_grain_has_a_story.html lecture on pollen

Photography websites

www.rachelsussman.com photographer specialising in images of the natural world

Ceramic techniques websites

www.ceramicdesign.org.uk Central St Martins Ceramic Design courses
www.artisancam.org.uk/pages/artists.php?artist=paul Paul Scott demonstrates hand building and printing on clay

Sci/Craft activities and case studies

www.artisancam.org.uk/pages/artists.php?artist=loop Artists Rachel Wingfield and Mathias Gmachl are Loop.pH. Influenced by science and in particular plants and plant movement, their works are part textile, part sculpture and part architecture. Their ambition is to make work that reacts to its environment in the way that plants do.

<http://www.normalflora.co.uk/>

Anna Dumitriu's collaborative practice utilises textiles to explore microbiology, alongside performance, digital art, installation and philosophy.

www.engage.org/watchthisspace/files/WTS7_CCANW_Case_Study.pdf Citizenship and textiles at KS4 addressed through the exhibition Fashion Footprints: Sustainable Approaches at the Centre for Contemporary Art in the Natural World

www.engage.org/projects/files/J_Korndorfer.pdf Key Stage 3 science addressed through engagement with environmental art at the Centre for Contemporary Art in the Natural World

www.engage.org/downloads/National_Glass_Centre.pdf Building opportunities for extended and cross curricular learning with two secondary schools at the National Glass Centre, Sunderland

Sci/ Craft Books

General

Adams, H.C (1999) *Karl Blossfeldt*. Prestel, Munich

Aldersly Williams, H (2003) *Zoomorphic: New Animal Architecture*. Lawrence King

Frankel, F (2002) *Envisioning Science. The Design and Craft of the Science Image*. MIT Press

Gamwell, L (2002) *Exploring the invisible, Art, Science and the Spiritual*, Princetown University Press

Haeckel, E. (1904) *Art Forms in Nature*. Reprinted 1998, Prestel, Munich

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Jenny, H (2001) *Cymatics: A Study of Wave Phenomena and Vibration*. Macromedia
Kemp, M (2000) *Visualisations, the nature Book of Art and Science*. Oxford University Press
Moore, A and Garibaldi, C (2003) *Flower Power: The Meaning of Flowers in Art*. Philip Wilson
Tomasi, L and Hirschauer, G (2002) *The Flowering of Florence*. National Gallery of Art, Washington
Mabberly, D (2000) *Arthur Harry Church: The Anatomy of Flowers*. Merrell
Stafford, B.M (1994) *Artful Science, Enlightenment, Entertainment and the Eclipse of the Visual Image*. MIT Press

Photography

Martin, G and Laoec, R (2002) *Macrophotography* Abrahams
Thomas, A (1997) *The Beauty of Another Order: Photography in Science*, Yale University Press

Science

Ball, P(2009) *Shapes: Natures patterns: a tapestry in three parts* Oxford University Press
Ball, P(2009) *Branches: Natures patterns: a tapestry in three parts* Oxford University Press
Ball, P (2009) *Flow: Natures patterns: a tapestry in three parts*. Oxford University Press

Ceramics

Quinn, Anthony (2007), *The Ceramic Design Course*. London: Thames & Hudson

Digital manipulation

Weibman, E and Lourekas, P *Visual Quickstart Guide: Photoshop CS4*

The work of Rob Kessler

Kessler, R (2001) *Pollinate* Grizedale Arts and the Wordsworth Trust
Kessler, R and Harley, M (2009) *Pollen, the hidden sexuality of Flowers*, Papadakis
Kessler, R and Stuppy, W (2009) *Seeds, time capsules of life* Papadakis
Stuppy, W and Kessler, R (2008) *Friut, edible, incredible and inedible* Papadakis
Stuppy, W, Kessler, R and Harley M (2009) *The bizarre and incredible world of plants* Papadakis

Thinking through Craft: philosophical approaches to making

Introduction

Many makers today are developing critical positions in response to consumer culture, questioning modes of production through the development of new processes, looking at issues of stewardship and sustainability, as well as exploring collective making and the reworking of everyday objects. Helen Carnac seeks to address some of these issues through her research and through the exhibition "Taking Time: Craft and the Slow Revolution". See www.makingaslowrevolution.wordpress.com and www.takingtime.org

Websites

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www.thinktank04.eu THINK TANK is a group of 9 leading thinkers, writers, theorists, curators and makers representing a broad range of European countries. All participants are engaged with craft and design, through writing, teaching and lecturing and include, from the UK, Tanya Harrod, writer and theorist and Edmund De Waal, ceramicist and writer.

www.bergpublishers.com/BergJournals/TheJournalofModernCraft/tabid/3254/Default.aspx The Journal of Modern Craft addresses all forms of making that self-consciously set themselves apart from mass production, whether in the making of designed objects, artworks, buildings, or other artefacts.

www.innovativecraft.co.uk Innovative Craft: working with artists, makers, curators and other arts organisations to research and develop a programme of exhibitions, talks and events and occasionally sponsor commissions which explore new ways of connecting people and objects and different ways of interpreting and evaluating the impact of that in the 21st century.

Interactive craft and performance

Introduction

Many makers today collaborate in an inter-disciplinary way with fine artists, dancers, choreographers, filmmakers, branding consultants and architects. This approach helps to blur the boundaries between traditional craft, fine art, installation, live performance and other disciplines both within and outside the creative industries. The aim is often to provide an 'experience' rather than a finished outcome or object. Many of these makers explore the body and our presence within a particular environment, or histories and a sense of place.

Artists

Clare Twomey

Jerwood Prize-winning ceramic artist producing site-specific interventions for the V&A museum, Eden Project and Brighton Royal Pavilion.

<http://www.claretwomey.com/ClareTwomeyTrophy.html>

<http://www.claretwomey.com/ClareTwomeyBlossom.html>

<http://www.lja.uk.com/index.php?page=2232&PHPSESSID=1afaf3d7378fd9f20fb1b49a65074be8>

Bompas & Parr

Bespoke jelly moulds and kitchenalia

http://www.jellymongers.co.uk/about#!_about

Also see below general crafts websites

Specialist Craft Theory Books

Appadurai. A. ed (1986) *The Social Life of Things: commodities in cultural perspective*, Cambridge University Press

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- Arkhipov, V. (2006) *Home Made: contemporary Russian folk artifacts*
- Chapman, J. and Grant, N. (2007) *Designers, Visionaries and Other Stories: A collection of sustainable design essays* Earthscan
- Cummings, N. and Lewandowska. M. (2000) *The Value of Things*: August Media
- Hickey, G ed (1995) *Making and Metaphor: A discussion of Meaning in Contemporary Craft*, Canadian Museum of Civilization
- Jonsson, L. ed (2005) *Craft in Dialogue: Six Views on a Practice in Change* IASPIS, Stockholm
- Lakoff, G. and Johnson M. (1981) *Metaphors We Live By* University of Chicago Press
- Miller, D. (2008) *The Comfort of Things* Polity Press
- Turkle. S. Ed (2007) *Evocative Objects Things we think with* MIT Press
- Veiteberg J. (2005) *Craft in Transition* Bergen National Academy of the Arts

General Crafts Resources

Books

- Adamson, G. (Ed.) (2010), *The Craft Reader*. London: Berg
- Adamson, G. (2007), *Thinking through Craft*. London: Palgrave Macmillan
- Britton Newell, L. (2008), *Out of the Ordinary: Spectacular Craft*. London: V&A
- Dormer, P. (ed.) (1997), *The Culture of Craft*. Manchester University Press
- Dormer, P. (1994) *The Art of the Maker: Skill and its Meaning in Art, Craft and Design*. London: Thames and Hudson
- Frayling, C. (Ed.) (1991), *Beyond the Dovetail: Craft, Skill and Imagination*. London: Crafts Council
- Greenhalgh, P. (Ed.) (2002), *The Persistence of Craft*. London: A&C Black
- Harrod, T. (ed.) (1997), *Obscure Objects of Desire: Reviewing the crafts in the twentieth century*. University of East Anglia & Crafts Council
- McCullough, M. (1996), *Abstracting Craft: The Practiced Digital Hand*. London: MIT Press
- Papanek, V. (1979) *Design for the Real World*. London: Paladin
- Sennett, R. (2008) *The Craftsman*. London: Penguin
- Williams, G. (2009) *Telling Tales: Fantasy and Fear in Contemporary Design*. London: V&A

Articles/ reports

- Clark, G. (2009), 'The Death of Crafts: A Post-modern Post-mortem' in *Crafts* No. 216 (January/February 2009) pp.48-51
- Crafts Council (1998), *Learning Through Making: A national enquiry into the value of creative practical education in Britain*.
- Creative & Cultural Skills (2009), *The Craft Blueprint*.
- Downing, D. (2005), *School Art - What's in it?* National Foundation for Education Research
- OFSTED (2009), *Drawing Together: art, craft and design in schools*.
- Williams, G. (2009), 'Tales of the Unexpected' in *Crafts* No. 219 (July/August 2009) pp.48-55

THE MAKING[®] Journals

Crafts magazine: produced by the Crafts Council

Websites

www.themaking.org.uk craft development agency that promotes high quality contemporary art, craft and design and inspires new audiences to engage with the art of making. The website has information about 60 contemporary makers and links to their websites, and descriptions of crafts education events in schools and the community

www.artisancam.org.uk: videos of makers and pupils in action, step by step guides to making. A section for teachers: www.artisancam.org.uk/pages/teachers_notes.php includes demonstrations of basket weaving, ceramics, metal sculpture, jewellery and sci/art projects.

www.culture24.org.uk : information about museums and galleries across the UK: collections, exhibitions and events

www.craftscouncil.org.uk: information on UK crafts and learning programmes at www.craftscouncil.org.uk/learn/

www.csc.ucreative.ac.uk The Crafts Study Centre, Farnham has a collection and archive of twentieth century British Crafts. On-going exhibition and events programme.

www.engage.org National Association for Gallery Education. Case studies of working with schools in craft galleries and studios:
www.engage.org/watchthisspace/studies.aspx

www.nsead.org: National Society for Education in Art and Design. Current issues in Art and Design education, Professional Development opportunities

www.teachersmedia.com the new Teachers TV: an archive of educational films on all subjects including craft and cross curricular work

www.craftspace.co.uk Birmingham based organisation with strong educational remit - case studies of school projects

www.craftanddesign.net information on contemporary craft galleries near you

Crafts Collections in Museums and Galleries

www.vam.ac.uk Victoria and Albert Museum international historic and contemporary international crafts.

www.britishmuseum.org British Museum historic crafts from around the world

www.csc.ucreative.ac.uk/ Crafts Study Centre Farnham, Surrey

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www.manchestergalleries.org Manchester Art Galleries historic and contemporary craft and design collection

www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk Bowes Museum, County Durham
....and in a local museum near you search Culture 24

Contemporary Crafts galleries with changing exhibitions

www.caa.org.uk Contemporary Applied Art, London

www.ruthincraftcentre.org.uk, Ruthin Craft Centre Clwyd, Wales

www.bluecoatdisplaycentre.com The Bluecoat, Liverpool

www.harleygallery.co.uk Harley Gallery, Nottinghamshire

www.flowgallery.co.uk Flow Gallery, London

www.crafts.org.uk Devon Guild of Craftsmen, Bovey Tracey, Devon