

Makers Guild Wales Christmas Show



Margaret Brampton

Margaret is a ceramic artist living and working in Bridgend from her home studio where she runs her own practice. Margaret makes traditional wheel thrown slipware. Her journey began when she first encountered pottery when she was eleven years old when her parents took Margaret to Ewenny Pottery. Whilst studying at Cardiff College of Education, pottery was one of the options which Margaret chose to study and went on to gain a B.Ed in ceramics.

Margaret's first studio was in Chapter Arts Centre after which she taught in a variety of settings. About twenty years ago she became interested in slipware and switched from stoneware to earthenware. She is absorbed by the capacity to use the pots as a surface to draw on. She decorates her work with themes drawn from medieval manuscripts and flora and fauna and is influenced by the continental and North Devon slipwares. A major design element on most of her work is the use of script. The decoration is produced with sgraffito techniques and is coloured using oxides and underglaze colours.

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Anne Woods

Anne's original training as a designer of printed textiles left her with an ingrained feeling for pattern, colour, texture and composition, which has been of great benefit during her long career in textile art. Anne experiments with many ways of using fabrics, papers and stitchery but for several years her work has focused on conveying the essence of Wales - its land and sea - in a form of simplified realism and, from time to time, details of sand, sea and rocks in a more abstract way. Each piece of work is based on a drawing made on the spot. To produce shapes and colour effects Anne uses fabrics and papers that she has painted and worked in various ways. Both the papers and fabrics may have gone through a number of other processes to produce additional textural effects - torn, creased, crumpled, pleated - whatever is necessary to produce the required effect. Finally the detail is added by drawing with free machine stitchery which occasionally may be embellished with hand stitchery to create added texture.

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Verity Pulford

Verity Pulford is a Glass Artist based in North Wales.

Having graduated from North East Wales Institute of Higher Education, Wrexham Glyndŵr University in 2006 with a 1st Class Hons. Degree, she now creates wall pieces, functional ware and architectural commissions using fusing, sandblasting, hand-painting and etching. Verity has also recently been voted as a finalist in Selected Makers 2016.

Verity's inspiration for her current work comes from the stunning countryside and wildlife around her in North Wales. She is fascinated by the ever changing light and the magical qualities this gives the plants and trees within the landscape. She sketches, photographs and collect plants whilst out walking and on returning to her workshop, tries to capture the magic, the shapes, light and atmosphere which she finds so beautiful.

Her work is constantly evolving - every piece being unique.

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Sasha Kingston

During Sasha's postgraduate development research into Textile Art at the Royal College of Art, she was drawn to and inspired by the use of paper as a material, especially the incorporation of the process of paper-making in my textile art constructions. It has become her passion. Sasha's understanding and love of paper as a creative artistic medium has grown immensely. The range of possible visual and tactile qualities this material provides stimulates her imagination. During the creative process new images begin to emerge from the paper itself, and increasingly she works intuitively. Inspired by the texture and unpredictability of wet pulp, the final work is abstracted in imagery, minimal in content and direct in feeling. It has sprung from an idea which has captivated her.

The recurring theme that spontaneously appears in her paper art is linked connections within a journey, often with reference to her early work inspired by distorted architectural reflections and more recently, organic forms.

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Alan Perry

Traditional techniques, contemporary design...

Alan makes a range of contemporary design forged items that bring a timeless elegance to the interior living space. The unique designs and traditional hot forged techniques are equally pleasing within any age of building and decorative style. Alan enjoys the process of heating the uniform stock metal, either new or reclaimed industrial steel, until it reaches a malleable state and then using hammer blows to transform it.

Wherever possible he uses traditional, ancient techniques in his work, although his forge blower is electric, not hand or foot pumped bellows, and his power hammer also runs on electric, not water or steam power as was once the case. He currently enjoys exploring the addition of colour onto the textured metal using heat from the forge to achieve this. Alan's designs continually evolve and range in style from organic to stark simplicity.

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Lisa-Marie Tann

Lisa-Marie Tann lives and works in Cardiff, South Wales. She completed her degree in Ceramic and Design at Howard Gardens, and combines her arts practice with teaching. Lisa-Marie has recently developed a new range of ceramic artwork, combining her illustrations and ceramics. The images begin as pen and ink drawings, which are then collaged, photographed and applied to the clay surface via ceramic decals. As a contrast to her earlier larger landscape pieces, Lisa-Marie has chosen porcelain and works on a smaller scale, enjoying the precision and delicate quality of the ceramic objects and surface treatment. The inspiration behind the drawings and collages are from nature, Botanical Illustrations and the porcelain forms are reminiscent of Victorian glass medicine bottles.

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Sue Atkins

Landscape has always held a particular fascination for Sue. Although most of her work does not represent any one real geographical location, time of day or month of the year, it does reflect her own personal response to what she sees, hears and feels. The place she pictures blends the real and imaginary, often several locations and times of day are superimposed, the effect can be like looking through a prism. Holidays in Pembrokeshire and Cornwall has provided her with a rich resource of ideas, the naturally occurring qualities of the coastal landscape can always be found somewhere in her work. Working in strips of fabric imposes a discipline but also allows for infinite variation. Sue uses plain commercially dyes fabrics bonded to a ground fabric for stability. The surface remains essentially flat, detail, direction and depth are

added with machine stitchery which also serves to blend or accentuate colours.

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Helly Powell - Fauxidermy

Helly Powell is a textile artist born and raised in Wales; she has combined her love for the landscape of the Brecon Beacons and its wildlife with a life long interest in textiles to develop her art, Fauxidermy. (a play on words faux, French for false and taxidermy) This reflects in the textile pieces she produces mimicking Victorian taxidermy reproducing animals from Hares to Highland Cattle. She mastered her skills as a haute couture seamstress whilst working with renowned Welsh fashion designers Charles and Patricia Lester; working in all aspects of the haute couture fashion industry, Helly has coupled the skills learned with traditional taxidermy techniques. "it was an amazing experience, I learnt so much from them, especially hand finishing and very disciplined attention to detail."

Current collection is inspired by Parc Lodge on the foothills of the Sugarloaf Mountain, Abergavenny.

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Claire Cawte

Using honest, natural materials sourced in Wales and across the British countryside, Claire makes a range of bespoke hand-felt handbags and a beautiful collection of delicate silk scarves dyed naturally using sustainable plant dyes. Residing in Penarth in South Wales, Claire graduated with a degree in Contemporary Textile Practice and in 2010 received a grant from the Arts Council of Wales to research and explore the properties of British fleece. As a coarser material, the British fleece has since become an integral part of Claire's work, and being more stubborn and labour intensive to felt has lead her towards making sculptural pieces, such as vessels, handbags, and unique cutlery. When not developing designs at her studio, Claire can often be found wandering the Welsh hills foraging for plants, or teaching felt making and plant dyeing classes,

specialising in both botanical prints and immerse dyeing. Inspired by the endless resources found in nature, Claire sees the tactile nature of her work as the most important, and a reflection of the immense personal contact with the materials at hand.

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Caroline Rees

From a training in printed textiles and a successful career in large scale architectural glass, Caroline has turned her attention to paper. Enjoying the immediacy and freedom from the technical constraints associated with glass, she now uses the simplest of materials to create striking hand cut paper stencils. Seeking to capture and exaggerate the decorative elements in architecture and landscape, her compositions are inspired by the coastal surroundings on the beautiful Gower Peninsula where she lives.

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