



We Are Upland Symposium

5 February 2016, Dumfries & Galloway College

Speakers



Kirsty Whiten graduated from Edinburgh College of Art in 1999 and spent a year in Paris at La Cite Internationale de Arts. She returned to Edinburgh before settling in Fife in 2010. The core of her practice is drawing and painting, but has also made works in public spaces including murals and paste-ups in urban locations, and collaborated with Edinburgh Printmakers Workshop to create a series of lithographs. She has exhibited regularly in Edinburgh (Edinburgh Printmakers Workshop), Glasgow (Recoat Gallery), London (Stolenspace Gallery) and internationally.

Kirsty strives to make frank images of people, dealing with their psychology and socially constructed behaviour; making the viewer aware of the sexuality, control and neuroses underneath appearance. She has an ongoing fascination with ritual objects from all world cultures and in her work often returns to anthropology and the study of humans as just another animal.

www.kirstywhiten.com



Jasleen Kaur is a Scottish Indian artist based in London. She is fascinated by the malleability of culture and how social histories become embedded in materials and objects. Her refashioned objects are based on instinct and resourcefulness, reflecting a hybridity of national custom and reconsidering the realities of materiality, usage and everyday routine.

Jasleen is a visiting lecturer at The Royal College of Art and devises workshops and programmes for the Victoria & Albert Museum, Crafts Council, Art on the Underground and Sorrell Foundation. She exhibits worldwide and was awarded the Jerwood Makers Open in 2015. Her work is also part of the permanent collection of the Royal College of Art and Crafts Council.

www.jasleenkaur.co.uk



Alexia Holt has worked at Cove Park since 2004 and produces its international programme of visual arts residencies and commissions. Prior to Cove Park, she was Curator at Tramway, Glasgow. A graduate of Glasgow University's History of Art department, she also worked at Glasgow School of Art and the CCA whilst completing a Ph.D. on early twentieth century fashion design. She is also currently Curator for the Scottish Print Network and has recently developed 'Below another Sky': an international programme of residencies, exhibitions and events for Scotland's five print studios.

Cove Park is an artist's residency centre located on a 50-acre rural site overlooking Loch Long in Argyll and Bute. Since its launch in 2000, Cove Park has developed significantly, offering a wide range of residencies throughout the year for artists working in all art forms and at all stages in their careers. Alexia will discuss Cove Park's unique approach to its international residency programme and the role these residencies play within the development of both individual and collaborative practices.

www.covepark.org

www.belowanothersky.org



Sarah Drummond is the co-founder and director of design at CycleHack. Sarah also runs Snook design company and started the Dearest Scotland initiative. CycleHack is a global movement in its third year that has spread to over 70 cities bringing people together to consider how we can reduce the barriers to cycling. CycleHack is on a mission to make the world more sustainable by reducing barriers to cycling. They run an annual event that brings together citizens, local government, cycling agencies and maker communities to break down the problems to cycling where they live and prototype solutions in a 48 hour event. Dearest Scotland is an apolitical initiative that asked citizens to write a letter to the future of Scotland and culminated in a printed book launched at the Scottish Parliament.

Sarah is the founder and managing director of Snook, a global design firm who work with Government, councils and organisations on a mission to help organisations design and deliver great services and products.

Sarah is a Google Fellow, a member of the Royal Society of Arts and has developed and delivered multiple social innovation projects and services. These include MyPolice, the UK's first online feedback tool for the police, The Matter an educational service teaching young people how to produce newspapers and Dearest Scotland, a nation wide collection of letters published in a book capturing the referendum in 2014.

www.wearesnook.com

Panel Discussion



Gillian Easson is the co-founding Director of **Creative Dundee**, a design-driven social enterprise. Connecting and amplifying the city's creativity, Creative Dundee aims to enable creative talent to base, grow and sustain their practice in and around the city.

Formerly a Development Manager with Nesta for seven years, Gillian led a number of creative enterprise initiatives for creative industry start-ups, including Nesta's Creative Enterprise Toolkit and international train the trainer programme; and a Digital R&D Fund for the arts and culture sector in Scotland. Also part of the UK's first UNESCO City of Design team in Dundee, Gillian's passion throughout everything is to connect people with better opportunities.

www.creativedundee.com



Richard Clifford is the Executive Director of **MAKLab**. Richard is responsible for the management and development of MAKLab across Scotland. His work allows MAKLab to continue to grow and support the needs of communities, interest groups and partners across Scotland, the UK and Europe.

Richard's background is in architecture, having studied at Strathclyde University, Glasgow and the ETH in Zurich, Switzerland before working with prestigious architecture practices in Glasgow. He has also been involved with teaching at many design and architecture schools across the UK. Richard has been involved in the development and formation of a number of social enterprises and charities across Scotland in the last three years. In parallel with his role at MAKLab he is also an Industry Advisor to Cultural Enterprise Office, a mentor with Vanilla Ink, a fellow of the RSA, a board member of Make Works and an associate of Cyclehack.

www.maklab.co.uk



Matt Baker has concentrated his Artist practice full-time on work in the public domain over the last twenty years. During this time he has developed participatory and collaborative techniques through projects ranging from temporary events/installations to large scale permanent artworks and cultural strategies for programmes of urban change. In 2011 Baker was one of the founder members of the Artist-led Collective 'The Stove Network' in Dumfries.

The Stove Network is a project to embed creativity in the structures that surround us and mobilise citizens as agents of change.

The project is run by a collective of artists and other active citizens in Dumfries and Galloway. The Stove creates participatory public art events to engage the citizens of Dumfries in constructive and practical action in the town. The Stove uses a three storey building in the town centre of Dumfries as an HQ for the project and will operate 100 High Street as a social enterprise. The Stove has a membership of over 240 people ranging from café-owners and wild-food chefs to video artists and DJs.

www.mattbaker.org.uk

www.thestove.org



Emma Nicolson is Director of **ATLAS Arts** in the Isle of Skye and guest curator at Taigh Chearsabhagh Museum and Arts Centre in North Uist.

She is a recognised curator and producer of high quality programming, community involvement and break-through audience development initiatives.

She has been actively involved in the visual arts for over twenty years. Emma moved to Skye from the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, where she was a Senior Manager for three years, working on an ambitious international programme of contemporary art. She is a board member of CCA, Glasgow and SCAN (Scottish Contemporary Art Network).

www.atlasarts.org.uk

Workshop Artists/ Facilitators



Bea Last is a D&G based visual artist who's practice is essentially studio based. She creates large scale, contemporary, abstract, paintings that by their very physicality are to be experienced.

Bea's practice focuses on movement, energy, relationship and connection through the medium of paint onto canvas, paper, and sketchbooks. They are about her relationship to and with paint and the dynamics created within.

At present Bea is taking the placement of paintings outwith that of the conventional gallery space and looking towards alternative creative spaces where she can create a dialogue between the structure of a building, its features, various spaces, and highlighted aspects of its architectural design.

Bea has exhibited widely across the U.K, with work held in both the private and corporate sector. Previous clients include Reuters U.K, Logica (Microsoft), Dokkæ Project, Saudi, the Corinthia Hotel, London W1 (The British Art Project) Ballymoore properties, Canary Wharf, London and EDL Associates, U.S.A

www.re-title.com/artists/bea-last.asp



Frances Priest is an artist and designer based in Edinburgh with a specialism in ceramics. Her work explores pattern and ornament in decorative art and design; where it is found, how it is used and the craft processes involved in its production. From her studio Frances creates intricately decorated ceramic forms, exploring and reinterpreting languages of ornament from different cultures, places and periods in history. Out with the studio Frances enjoys making work in response to people and places, using her interests as a platform from which to develop new work. This approach has led to projects in varied and sometimes unexpected settings, from a Tudor banqueting room in Sheffield, to an underpass in Cumbernauld. Frances' latest work, Patterns of Flora | Mapping Seven Raasay Habitats, is an Atlas Arts commission in collaboration with botanist Stephen Bungard, exploring the diverse natural habitats and plant life on the island of

Raasay. This work is supported by a Creative Scotland Artist Bursary. #patternsofflora

Frances regularly exhibits work in the UK and overseas and her work is represented in a number of UK collections including, the National Museums of Scotland Edinburgh, the Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge and the Victoria & Albert Museum London. She is currently represented by Tansey Contemporary, Santa Fe.

Portrait by Ruth Clark

www.francespriest.co.uk



Amy Winstanley is an artist currently based in Crossmichael, Dumfries & Galloway. She was born in Dumfries in 1983 and graduated from the Edinburgh College of Art in 2005 with a BA (Hons) fine art degree. Since graduating she had been developing and exhibiting her work in a number of solo and group shows throughout Scotland.

Amy's paintings are an exploration of memory, feeling and observation underpinned by a fascination with man's relationship to nature.

In 2014 Amy received the Hope Scott Trust Award and a Visual Artist Award (from Creative Scotland in partnership with South of Scotland Councils) to significantly develop her work for her large solo exhibition at the Gracefield Arts Centre. Her work has also been short-listed for the JD Fergusson Award.

www.amywinstanley.com



Samuel Sparrow is the Studio Manager for **MAKLab Dumfries**.

He has a background in Interior Design, graduating from Glasgow School of Art in 2006 before working for Habitat and Ikea.

In addition to his role with MAKLab, Samuel is also the owner and Creative Director at SPARROW AND CO. - a British homeware brand that promotes traditional making processes and celebrates the imperfect and inherent beauty that comes with functional, handmade products.



Cat Walker is the Time Banking Development Officer for Third Sector, Dumfries & Galloway which was established alongside 31 other support organisations within Scotland. They work to: Support volunteering and volunteers, develop the third sector, increase social enterprise, build the relationship between the third sector and community planning partners.

For 2 years they have been running the regional time banking project. A time bank is a way for people to share skills and resources and be rewarded for it – in time. For every hour you give, providing a service for another member, you receive one time credit.

You can then exchange your time credits when you need something done e.g. you might want to learn more about woodwork or painting and drawing. Professionals in the creative industries could use the time bank to build up a network of support, for example, there is at least one online music time bank in the UK where musicians share skills with each other.

www.timebankdg.org.uk

Speakers from earlier in the day; Kirsty Whiten, Alexia Holt, Emma Nicolson & Richard Clifford will also be involved in the workshop sessions.

Programme of events

10am – 10.30am Registration, tea & coffee

10:45am – 11am: Welcome: Clare Hanna, Upland Director (maternity cover) - The history of Spring Fling and evolution of Upland CIC.

SPEAKERS

11am – 11.30am: Kirsty Whiten, 'Survival & Fulfilment' - visual artist based in Fife who works primarily with drawing & painting. Kirsty will share her experiences of life as an artist, how to survive and how to retain artistic fulfilment.

11.30am – 12pm: Jasleen Kaur - artist & designer based in London. She is fascinated by the malleability of culture and how social histories become embedded in materials and objects.

12.00pm - 12.30pm: Alexia Holt, Cove Park - Alexia will discuss Cove Park's unique approach to its international residency programme and the role these residencies play within the development of both individual and collaborative practices.

12.30 – 1.30pm LUNCH

1.30 – 2pm: Sarah Drummond, 'The Power of Networks' - co-founder and director of design at CycleHack. Sarah also runs Snook design company and started the Dearest Scotland initiative.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Gillian Easson (Creative Dundee), Richard Clifford (MAKLab), Matt Baker (The Stove) & Emma Nicolson (ATLAS Arts)

2pm – 2.30pm: Introduction to Creative Dundee, MAKLab, The Stove, and ATLAS Arts.

2.30pm - 3pm: Panel Discussion facilitated by Sarah Drummond. The panel will discuss questions around working creatively in communities, building networks and sharing knowledge.

3pm – 3.30pm Tea & coffee

WORKSHOPS

3.30pm - 4.30pm - Workshop sessions (Each guest will attend two workshops, each workshop will last 30mins. Once your booking is processed we will email you a form allowing you to select from the workshop options).

Workshop 1 - MAKLab mobile lab demonstrations An overview of the kit available at MAKLab Dumfries including 3D scanner, Laser Cutter, Digital Embroidery and a chance to customise your own tote bag with 'Have a Go at Heat Pressing'.

Workshop 2 – Residency Q&A with Frances Priest (Artist/designer), Alexia Holt (Cove Park) and Emma Nicolson (ATLAS Arts).

Workshop 3 – 'What's Your Time Worth?' A workshop looking at the concept of time banking and how this could inform a model for artists' skill swap, with Cat Walker.

Workshop 4 - In Conversation Join D&G based visual artist Bea Last & Kirsty Whiten in conversation hosted by Upland Board Member & visual artist Amy Winstanley.

4.30pm – 5pm - Wrap Up & thanks - Clare Hanna.

Evening Reception

5pm – 6.30pm Networking with complimentary drinks and nibbles.

