

# THE MAKING

Welcome to The Making's first newsletter, keeping you up to date with ground-breaking work happening in the region. The Making aims to inspire and engage new audiences for contemporary craft, art and design through a vibrant outreach programme involving some of the most talented makers in the country.

## Celebration

2007 has seen our education programme begin to make real impact.

Our **Street Art** project for young people from priority areas in North Hampshire is now in its second year. We have commissioned outstanding public art works for the new Everest Community College's **Curriculum Gardens**. With **The Making of Basingstoke** we have consulted young people over the new town centre vision, and our **Theatre of Making** family learning programme has attracted hundreds of participants at each location from Bexhill to Basingstoke. We have been able to achieve all this thanks to our funders - and especially Arts Council England, The Big Lottery Fund, The Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Hampshire County Council.

Mandeep Dhiman Installation of schools work at De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill



Spiral Moebius by Benjamin Storch - Commission for Curriculum Gardens 2007

## Success

**The Theatre of Making**, our pioneering, family learning programme, has been an outstanding success.

Generously funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, it brings together young people and their families to work with leading UK artists, to learn new skills and experience the pleasure of 'hands-on' making. In-depth schools and community learning programmes are linked to inventive events which combine live performance with a wide range of 'making' activities. Demand was very high, and the feedback extremely positive.

*"I was so impressed with the work going on that day and how the children attending were deeply engaged in a range of creative activities."*

Councillor Michael Woodhall, Deputy Leader Hampshire County Council, at the Theatre of Making Fired Up event



Theatre of Making family workshops

## Award

The Basingstoke Gazette and a panel of local judges recently granted The Making *A Place to be Proud of Award for Creativity*.

The award was in recognition of raising the funds for and producing such a high quality and innovative art and design programme for young people in the borough, and especially for those most in need. The Making was described as *an organisation with its 'finger on the pulse', dedicated to bringing the community together through the arts*. Margaret Benton, Director of The Making, received the award from Channel 4 broadcaster Alex Thomson and Jennine Bentley, from category sponsor Motorola.



Image: Gazette Newspapers

## Theatre of Making Round Up

### Inspired by Nature at West Dean Gardens, Chichester, 30 June and 1 July 2007

The Making joined forces with West Dean College to provide specialist workshops in metalwork, willow-weaving, printing and ceramics, all inspired by plants in West Dean's spectacular gardens.



Skirt-maker Alison Willoughby



Milestones grand finale procession



Willow weaving workshop with Angela Morley



Making decorations at Theatre of Making, De La Warr Pavilion



Model-making in metal at Milestones



Metal Workshop with Junko Mori at West Dean



Ceramic tile workshop with Duncan Hooson

### Stories of Gosport, Gosport High Street and Gallery, 8 September 2007

We turned Gosport Market Day into a Theatre of Making with shoppers exchanging baskets for hammers, chisels, glue and paint-brushes to carve stone, craft toy boats and screen print pictures. There was also a stunning exhibition of work by students from our outreach programme as well as story-telling, figure-head carving and live music throughout the day.

### Celebrate in Style at the De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill on Sea, 18 November 2007

Over 1,500 people attended this extravaganza of craft and design. They learnt how to party in style by creating vibrant, Punjab-inspired decorations, glamorous hair accessories, silver stars and willow wreaths. Tempting chocolate demonstrations, live jazz and dance workshops added to the festive atmosphere.



Glamorous accessories Theatre of Making, De La Warr Pavilion

### Fired Up, Milestones Museum, Basingstoke, 24 October 2007

A dramatic day demonstrated how different materials are transformed by fire - from hot glass to the magic of raku. At the end of the day a lantern and samba procession led the crowds outside to watch Celia Smith ignite the wire Phoenix sculpture she had constructed with local school-children and to marvel at Tom Barnett's spectacular futuristic firing.



Phoenix created by Celia Smith with Winklebury Junior School



Batala Samba Band, Gosport



Stone carving workshop with Zoe Cull

## Education and the Community

### Participating in craft

Learning through making can be one of the most rewarding, inclusive and inspiring ways to learn. Our outreach programmes for schools and communities enable people to explore their creativity and acquire new skills, in areas where there are few quality visual arts facilities.



Making wire animal sculptures with Celia Smith, Grange Farm, Gosport

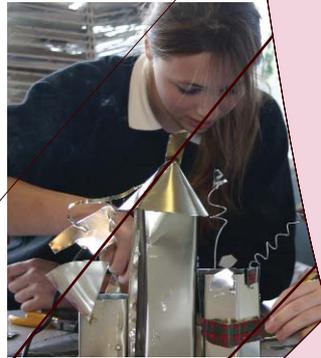


"I was delighted to be offered the opportunity for our children to be involved in this exciting initiative. The children learnt a lot and had such fun! We would love to be involved again."

Rose Smith, Head teacher, Siskin Infant and Nursery School, Gosport

### The Making of Basingstoke

A different approach to learning this summer through Making giving young people a unique opportunity to explore the future of the town while gaining valuable skills that counted towards their GCSEs. Through 'art safes' exploring local landscapes and the students came up with ideas to celebrate their town that they liked and things they felt ne



## Supporting Makers

### Craft Network - South East

The Making supports the professional development of artists and makers in the region through our Crafts Network South East. Seminars and meetings are open to organisations, professionals and freelancers from across the craft and design sector. Recent events were hosted by West Dean College, South Hill Park, Bracknell and Pallant House Gallery, Chichester.



Walter Keeler Master Class

### Seminars and Talks

This year we organised professional practice seminars on 'surviving in the crafts' for recent graduates, and talks by leading designer-makers. Speakers included renowned water sculptor David Pye, leading artist blacksmith Junko Mori and experimental ceramicist Rob Kessler.



Garden Flower Junko Mori

Triple Spout detail, David Pye



Castilleja Flava Seed - Rob Kessler

### Opportunities for Makers

We offer artists a range of employment opportunities. Through our participatory learning programme and public art commissions, we offer a range of opportunities to artists.

*"The Making has helped to raise my profile as an artist. I was given the opportunity to work in a new, exciting and very public environment, giving the wider community access to my working methods and techniques. It has increased my confidence and provided me with valuable skills."*

Samantha Bryan - mixed media artist



Samantha Bryan, Brain's Portable Fairy-Dust Collector (detail)

### Mentoring

We also give emerging artists and new graduates the chance to work alongside and learn from experienced makers. For example, mixed-media artist Mandeep Dhiman, who recently completed her MA at the Royal College of Art, worked as a volunteer with textile artist Dawn Dupree at our Gosport event. This encouraged her to take on the role of lead artist for our subsequent schools programme and Theatre of Making event in Bexhill.



'Crazy' - Mandeep Dhiman (mixed media 2007)

### Maker of the Month

Our popular website page **Maker of the Month** is used to promote makers producing high quality and innovative work. The makers featured specialise in different media and are at different stages in their careers but all have something to offer to both amateurs and professionals in the field.



Nididi Ekubia Silversmith and Trustee of The Making

### Further Information on The Making

For further information about The Making, visit [www.themaking.org.uk](http://www.themaking.org.uk) or contact us by email: [info@themaking.org.uk](mailto:info@themaking.org.uk) Telephone 01256 845679.

