

# 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](http://www.themaking.org.uk/Content/makers/2007/05/rob_kessler.html)

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[www.robkessler.co.uk](http://www.robkessler.co.uk)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBU42JC3xo4](http://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](http://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](http://www.themaking.org.uk/Content/makers/2009/10/helen_carnac.html)

[www.makingaslowrevolution.wordpress.com](http://www.makingaslowrevolution.wordpress.com)

[www.takingtime.org](http://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://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](http://www.nhm.ac.uk) Natural History Museum

[www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com) contains talks from leaders in the field of technology, science and design

[www.bioclips.com](http://www.bioclips.com) explores and displays information on the microscopic world of cells

[www.exploratorium.edu/who/artists](http://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](http://www.cytographics.com/sg.html) cells stills gallery  
[www.hhmi.org/coolscience/](http://www.hhmi.org/coolscience/) site with useful science education tips  
[www.microscopyu.com/galleries](http://www.microscopyu.com/galleries) images of cells and information on digital imaging  
[www.molecularmovies.com](http://www.molecularmovies.com) directory of cell and molecular animations,  
[www.ted.com/talks/jonathan\\_drori\\_every\\_pollen\\_grain\\_has\\_a\\_story.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_drori_every_pollen_grain_has_a_story.html) lecture on pollen

## Photography websites

[www.rachelsussman.com](http://www.rachelsussman.com) photographer specialising in images of the natural world

## Ceramic techniques websites

[www.ceramicdesign.org.uk](http://www.ceramicdesign.org.uk) Central St Martins Ceramic Design courses  
[www.artisancam.org.uk/pages/artists.php?artist=paul](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.makingaslowrevolution.wordpress.com) and [www.takingtime.org](http://www.takingtime.org)

## Websites

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[www.thinktank04.eu](http://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](http://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](http://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](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<sup>®</sup> Journals

Crafts magazine: produced by the Crafts Council

## Websites

[www.themaking.org.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.culture24.org.uk) : information about museums and galleries across the UK: collections, exhibitions and events

[www.craftscouncil.org.uk](http://www.craftscouncil.org.uk): information on UK crafts and learning programmes at [www.craftscouncil.org.uk/learn/](http://www.craftscouncil.org.uk/learn/)

[www.csc.ucreative.ac.uk](http://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](http://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](http://www.engage.org/watchthisspace/studies.aspx)

[www.nsead.org](http://www.nsead.org): National Society for Education in Art and Design. Current issues in Art and Design education, Professional Development opportunities

[www.teachersmedia.com](http://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](http://www.craftspace.co.uk) Birmingham based organisation with strong educational remit - case studies of school projects

[www.craftanddesign.net](http://www.craftanddesign.net) information on contemporary craft galleries near you

## **Crafts Collections in Museums and Galleries**

[www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk) Victoria and Albert Museum international historic and contemporary international crafts.

[www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org) British Museum historic crafts from around the world

[www.csc.ucreative.ac.uk/](http://www.csc.ucreative.ac.uk/) Crafts Study Centre Farnham, Surrey

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[www.manchestergalleries.org](http://www.manchestergalleries.org) Manchester Art Galleries historic and contemporary craft and design collection

[www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk](http://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](http://www.caa.org.uk) Contemporary Applied Art, London

[www.ruthincraftcentre.org.uk](http://www.ruthincraftcentre.org.uk), Ruthin Craft Centre Clwyd, Wales

[www.bluecoatdisplaycentre.com](http://www.bluecoatdisplaycentre.com) The Bluecoat, Liverpool

[www.harleygallery.co.uk](http://www.harleygallery.co.uk) Harley Gallery, Nottinghamshire

[www.flowgallery.co.uk](http://www.flowgallery.co.uk) Flow Gallery, London

[www.crafts.org.uk](http://www.crafts.org.uk) Devon Guild of Craftsmen, Bovey Tracey, Devon