

SOCIETY OF DESIGNER CRAFTSMEN PRESS RELEASE



The Voice of Craft Since 1887

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Dated: 06.07.2021

Excellence **From the Society of Designer Craftsmen** **at Oxmarket Gallery, Chichester**



*Image credit:
Silke Espinet, Emerge*

At The Oxmarket Gallery, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1YH Chichester
Tues 3rd August - Sun 15th August 2021, 10am - 4pm - Free entry

The Society of Designer Craftsmen is proud to present their 2021 summer exhibition, *Excellence* at the Oxmarket Gallery. With almost a year of unexpected studio time to explore and experiment, members of the Society have created a new collection of contemporary craft. Combining innovative thought with supreme craftsmanship, over 30 artists have been selected to showcase their highly original and inspiring work including textiles, ceramics, glass, wood, paper, silver and jewellery.

Established in 1887, The Society of Designer Craftsmen continues to promote and support the work of creative thinkers, designers and makers who innovate through the exploration of materials and skills in their own creative field.

'*Excellence*' exemplifies the high standards of the Society and is being held in the magnificent buildings of Chichester's historical Oxmarket Gallery, a deconsecrated medieval church full of light in the heart of the city.

Kate Mason, the new Chair of the Society of Designer Craftsmen says,

"We live in an increasingly tumultuous period of history and rapid change which, whilst presenting challenges, also offers immense opportunity.

Est. 1887 Formerly known as 'The Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society'. Founding Presidents, Walter Crane and William Morris.
Current President & Patron: Sir Christopher Frayling, Company registration No: 02380473 Charity registration No: 328202
E: info@societyofdesignercraftsmen.org.uk www.societyofdesignercraftsmen.org.uk

Against this backdrop of change lies a consideration of shifting social values and a major reappraisal of the central role of creativity and making. New thinking in innovation, in design, and in expression – ‘thinking through making’. The Society of Designer Craftsmen has always pioneered in this field, utilising and reimagining materials to create considered, beautifully crafted, aspirational, and sustainable work. From its inception in 1887, it continues to advocate for the role and value of craft, and works to support the next generation of makers, designers, innovators, and creative thinkers and change-makers.

With that in mind, we are delighted that our forthcoming exhibition ‘Excellence’ will be held in the wonderfully luminous and recently refurbished Oxmarket Gallery."

"The Oxmarket is thrilled to have the Society of Designer Craftsmen return and exhibit again. Their programme of live craft demonstrations is outstanding providing a fascinating insight into the making behind the pieces on display and excellence of their work." added Sophie Hull, Chair, Oxmarket Gallery .

The works selected for this exhibition reflect the skills, ambition and creativity of members of this renowned Society. All work will be for sale and commissions are undertaken.

Exhibitors Include:

[Adam Aaronson](#)

[Liz Ashurst](#)

[Anna Bingham](#)

[Jennifa Chowdhury](#)

[Hazel Connors](#)

[Megan Cook](#)

[Julia Desch](#)

[Wendy Dolan](#)

[Samantha English](#)

[Silke Espinet](#)

[Ferri Farahmandi](#)

[Antonello Figlia](#)

[Nancy Goodens](#)

[Sigi Hill](#)

[Kayley Holderness](#)

[Ruth Holt](#)

[Aran Illingworth](#)

[Christine Johnson](#)

[Edward Johnson](#)

[Simon Jewell](#)

[Mayumi Kaneko](#)

[Sharon Kearley](#)

[Sue Lancaster](#)

[Jean Littlejohn](#)

[Claudia Luque](#)

[Christine Meyer-Eaglestone](#)

[Pat Moloney](#)

[Carol Naylor](#)

[Wendy Newhofer](#)

[Lilly Reid](#)

[Elizabeth Saunders](#)

[Cathryn Shilling](#)

[Batool Showghi](#)

[Gillian Spires](#)

[Deborah Timperley](#)

[Alison Tomlin](#)

[Sarah Waters](#)

[Jane White](#)

[Toby Winteringham](#)

PLUS

Prizes

Two prizes will be awarded at the exhibition, one of which will be selected by the visiting public. The result of this People's Prize will be announced at the close of the exhibition on August 15th. More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

Live Demonstrations

Alongside the main exhibition, a **programme of craft skills demonstrations** will be hosted by members of the Society. With a different craftsperson in the spotlight every single day of the exhibition, we hope to provide a fascinating insight into the making behind the pieces on display.

20.21 Exhibition

In the Wilson Room visitors will find small scale works of craft excellence – each piece no more than 20.21cm.

Drop In Tapestry Weaving

Don't miss the community weave project, where visitors of all ages can sit down and try their hand at tapestry weaving.

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Society of Designer Craftsmen Discovery Area

An area in the foyer of the Oxmarket Gallery will highlight the aims, history and membership of this highly regarded, traditional society which has been the voice of Craft for nearly 125 years. Anyone interested in craft is invited to meet and chat with us.

ENDS CONTACT

For further information, quotes, comments, images and interviews:

E: exhibitions@societyofdesignercraftsmen.org.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

About the Society of Designer Craftsmen:

The Society promotes and supports the work of creative thinkers, designers and makers who continue to innovate in the crafts through their exploration of materials and skills.

The Society is run by a dedicated council of current Society members. Our national membership is made up of professional designer makers across various craft disciplines. We support our members through major exhibitions, professional and creative networks, workshops, mentoring and many other events and initiatives.

As the oldest multi-disciplinary Society in the UK, we are proud to have included within our ranks some of the most important designer makers of the past, as well as a growing number of the finest, most exciting and respected designer makers of today.

<https://societyofdesignercraftsmen.org.uk/>

About Oxmarket Gallery:

The Oxmarket Gallery, established in 1976 and a registered charity, offers flexible modern art space within a beautiful and atmospheric historic building for artists. The Oxmarket provides a hub for artists, art lovers and cultural tourists alike; allowing contemporary arts, crafts and culture to flourish in the heart of Chichester, off East Street.

The gallery is housed in a Grade II listed, medieval deconsecrated church, formerly St Andrew's which was converted to an arts centre in the early seventies. The newly renovated building has three indoor galleries and has a charming courtyard – perfect for sculpture, all of which offer highly attractive hireable space for a wide range of artistic disciplines.

The Oxmarket has an assorted and dynamic range of over 100 exhibitions every year, which are free to the public. We curate and host quality exhibitions which change fortnightly and host cultural events, attracting over 30,000 visitors a year.

Nearly all the artworks on show are handcrafted for sale thus offering visitors the opportunity to browse through affordable, unique, original artworks all year round.

www.oxmarket.com



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Images:

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Images: 1. Simon Jewell, 'Deco Tiling Box' 2. Wendy Dolan, 'Shorelines', 3. Wendy Newhofer 'Moonlit Tree',