



THE NEW CRAFTSMEN

PRESS RELEASE
13 November 2017

BRITISH CRAFT: THE MIAMI EDIT

The Crafts Council and The New Craftsmen present the new wave of British making at the inaugural FORM Miami

6–10 December 2017

This December, **British Craft: The Miami Edit** brings ten rising stars of making in the UK to South Beach for a five-day showcase of the most exciting emerging talents in contemporary British craft and sculptural art. A partnership between the **Crafts Council** and **The New Craftsmen**, the exhibition represents the first time the work of many of these makers will have been shown in the US – introducing the ideas, materials and processes at the forefront of UK craft to a new international audience.



*Detail from Antediluvian Swag by Phoebe Cummings (clay, wire, steel), New Art Centre, 2016 (left).
Detail from residency studio by Phoebe Cummings (clay) V&A, London, 2010 (right).
Photography: Sylvain Deleu.*

British Craft: The Miami Edit is showing at the debut edition of applied arts and sculpture fair **FORM Miami**, a new sister fair to SOFA Chicago. It takes place during **Miami Art Week**, when a raft of major fairs including Art Basel Miami Beach, Art Miami, and Design Miami place the US city under the international art-world spotlight.

Held opposite Art Basel, the Miami Edit puts UK craft innovation in front of an audience of thousands of art collectors, curators, owners and enthusiasts, with the aim of securing new sales, commissions and collaborations for the featured makers, and of raising international awareness of the ideas and materials shaping Britain's craft landscape today.



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'The profile of craft is on the rise in both the design and contemporary art worlds. Craft is the new cool, and serious collectors are waking up to it. In the US, in particular, there is soaring interest in British craft. With Miami Art Week attracting the most influential collectors, curators and critics from around the world, this is a prime opportunity to bring makers at the forefront of British contemporary practice to their attention.'

– **Annie Warburton**, Creative Director, Crafts Council

The showcase is the fourth and final event in the Crafts Council's two-year international exhibition programme, **A Future Made**, a partnership between the Crafts Council, The New Craftsmen, Craft Scotland and Ruthin Craft Centre.

The ten makers have been selected from hundreds of submissions by the **Crafts Council**, and **The New Craftsmen**, each one chosen for their distinctive artistic voice, exceptional skill, and innovative approach to their practice.



*Broken, Cleft, Thrown and Planed, 2017 by Sebastian Cox and Sue Paraskeva.
Porcelain and silver. English elm and coppiced chestnut.
Photography: By the artist.*

In response to a resurgent international interest in craft and ceramics in particular, the exhibition places a strong emphasis on the discipline, with seven of the ten makers presenting ceramic or ceramic-based works that reflect the limit-pushing ideas and pioneering approaches driving the practice forward in the UK today. One of the exhibiting makers – the raw-clay sculptor **Phoebe Cummings** – was named winner of the £10,000 **Woman's Hour Craft Prize** last week.

Presented in an exquisitely designed space within the fair, each featured work places a strong emphasis on tactility and materiality – exploring the sensory dimensions of craft and the relationship between form and materiality.

'Referring to both the tactile and emotional qualities that craft evokes, this showcases a selection of British makers whose work demands the engagement of head, heart and hand. The innate tactility and sensorial materiality of craft is distinct and unique, and this presentation invites you to journey through and discover the pioneering processes the makers have employed to conceive of this exciting body of work.'

– **Catherine Lock**, Creative Director, The New Craftsmen



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The Crafts Council, The New Craftsmen and the featured makers will also be participating in FORM Miami's Booth Talks discussion programme throughout the fair, sharing ideas and insights from the cutting-edge of British craft, alongside makers, curators and industry thought leaders from around the world.



Group of Vessels by Ashraf Hanna.

THE MIAMI EDIT MAKERS

The featured makers come from all over the UK, and will present exclusive new pieces, conceptual works and installations for the Miami Edit.

Ceramic artist **Katie Spragg** presents a place-responsive set of three clay-and-stone pieces inspired by the brickwork and wild flora encountered on her residency at Forde Abbey in Somerset in May this year. Her work features the area's distinctive golden Hamstone, and wild plants, weeds and grass delicately depicted in porcelain.

'I'm not trying to make a beautiful replica of nature; but to make people consider our relationship to it and reconsider what 'beautiful nature' is'

– Katie Spragg

Isle of Wight-based ceramic storyteller **Sue Paraskeva** and London designer-maker **Sebastian Cox** have collaborated on a contemporary and intricately hand-decorated Welsh dresser made using English elm and hand-cleft chestnut shakes, and featuring suspended vessels in finely thrown porcelain, incorporating precious metals.

'Something as seemingly random as an accident can be charged with meaning – it's having the skill, maturity and wisdom to see it.'

– Sue Paraskeva



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'It is an incredibly exacting piece of design with complex joints influenced by the structure of timber-framed buildings, so each piece has to be made with absolute precision. A single mistake on any element renders every other component incorrect.'

– Sebastian Cox

Up-and-coming maker **Leah Jensen** has developed a pattern-mapping technique that allows her to recreate Renaissance paintings on the surface of her clay. For The Miami Edit – her first show outside the UK – Jensen has spent 133 hours creating *The Tribute Money*, a new vessel in black/brown clay bearing a pattern inspired by the eponymous fresco by Masaccio.



The Tribute Money by Leah Jensen.

'Once the images and pins are removed from the clay, a scattering of pinholes remain, these are then joined up to create the patterns. People have often mistaken the pots for being 3D-printed.'

– Leah Jensen

Winner of the inaugural **Woman's Hour Craft Prize**, **Phoebe Cummings** works predominantly in unfired clay, creating ephemeral, exquisitely detailed site-specific pieces that are destroyed and reclaimed at the end of each exhibition. At The Miami Edit, she presents a symmetrical composition featuring a photograph of a completed work, Antediluvian Swag, juxtaposed with a fragmentary display of its clay components: flower heads, leaves and branches.

'For me, the unfired stage is when clay is most alive; it changes, shrinks, hardens, cracks. I love how directly I can work with clay, mostly just using my hands, and I like the possibility for objects to enact their own performance.'

– Phoebe Cummings



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The work of industrial artist and designer **Charlotte Kingsnorth** reinterprets traditional materials and techniques to create unexpected forms and effects. For this exhibition, Kingsnorth has revisited upholstery methods to create *My Big Fat Sofa*, a biomorphic seat that is both beautiful and unsettling in its organic, fleshy form.

'This piece is born from a continual exploration of the female form and the relationship connecting her body to the chair. Together they sit as one, the flesh spills and bulges, enveloping the wooden frame as a marriage of two mediums, soft and hard.'

– Charlotte Kingsnorth

Ceramic artist **Lauren Nauman** works with plaster moulds and casting slips to make experiment-driven porcelain works that depend on the warping of clay in the kiln for their final form. At The Miami Edit, she is showing a selection of her *Lines* series of sculptural vessels, formed from curving strands of porcelain.



*Lines by Lauren Nauman.
Photography by Sylvain Deleu.*

'I see craft as a learned skill that brings beauty and function into the world.'

– Lauren Nauman

Based in Pembrokeshire, **Ashraf Hanna** is an Egyptian-born designer/maker who works in both ceramics and glass, creating quietly elegant experimental forms. Five large, hand-formed ceramic vessels from his recent collections will be on show, displayed alongside Lauren Nauman's works.

'When we make, the physicality of an object is a manifestation of thoughts and emotions that we experience, a celebration of the marriage of ideas and skill.'

–Ashraf Hanna



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Textile artist **Anna Ray** presents *'Bloom (Marguerite)'*, a sculptural fabric work created in homage to Maureen Hodge's 1976 tapestry *Hill for my Friend*. The first of a series of works, it depicts the centre of a daisy in soft 3D textile forms.



Bloom by Anna Ray. Photography by Todd White.

'My work forms a bridge between an understanding of everyday materials, the forms they take and the imagination.'

– Anna Ray

Born in New Zealand and based in Glasgow, **James Rigler** uses ceramics to introduce notes of ambiguity to familiar or everyday forms. In Miami, he presents a selection of his more recent, experimental and instinctive work: playful, cartoonish pieces that incorporate gold leaf to create wood-like surface finishes. The inclusion of James Rigler is supported by Creative Scotland. James is represented by Marsden Woo Gallery, London.

'Craft is the fascinating, challenging space where art and design meet. It's what happens when skill and material knowledge is really embedded in the act of creation – a constant dialogue between material, process, form and meaning.'

– James Rigler

Katie Spragg, Sue Paraskeva, Sebastian Cox, Charlotte Kingsnorth, Lauren Nauman and James Rigler will all be in Miami for the duration of the exhibition.

For images or more information about **A Future Made: British Craft – The Miami Edit**, the makers involved, or the Crafts Council's work, please contact Jodi Moss at jodi@zetteler.co.uk or on +44 (0)7910 705147.



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Supported using public funding by

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Notes to Editors

British Craft: The Miami Edit is part of the partnership programme A Future Made from the Crafts Council, The New Craftsmen, Craft Scotland and Ruthin Craft Centre. It is funded by Arts Council England and Arts Council Wales, and supported by the GREAT Britain campaign.

Location

FORM Miami
Washington Avenue and 17th Street
Miami Beach, FL 33139

Opening Hours

Wednesday 6 December: 2–7pm (VIP cardholders only)
Thursday 7 December: 11am–8pm
Friday 8 December: 11am–8pm
Saturday 9 December: 12noon–8pm
Sunday 10 December: 12noon–6pm

Website	formmiami.com
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About the Crafts Council

Leading innovation in making across the UK, the Crafts Council is the country's foremost authority on contemporary craft in all its forms. Founded in 1971, its role as guardian and champion of national craft practice has evolved to include exploring and enabling new possibilities, making methods and technologies. Having played a pivotal role in the development of some of the UK's most accomplished and respected makers, the Crafts Council is devoted to finding and empowering new talent across the craft sector, creating platforms for emerging makers to show their work, forging connections between people and industries, and providing practical and inspirational resources to support the careers of our next generation of makers.

craftscouncil.org.uk

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About The New Craftsmen

Spanning furniture, lighting, textiles, ceramics and accessories, The New Craftsmen is a destination for craft pieces, works and services in the heart of Mayfair, London. Working with a growing network of exceptional makers across the British Isles, The New Craftsmen experiments and collaborates with them to develop exclusive new collections to refine and redefine the value of craft; and stimulate ambitious bespoke commissions – for private homes through to public spaces - to see craft be applied in innovative ways. In the process The New Craftsmen unlocks new opportunities for makers to grow their businesses, and elevates craft into the luxury sphere.

thenewcraftsmen.com

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