

Slow down with a stunning exhibition of contemporary crafts

Make it Slow at The Folly, Settle 15 April – 29 June 2014

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Experience art at a different pace and be inspired by six of the UK's leading craft makers

"The integrity and diversity on show is a joyful achievement." *Craft Magazine*

Make it Slow is a stunning exhibition of contemporary crafts, which is making a leisurely journey to a number of small venues in East Riding, North Yorkshire and East Lancashire. On Tuesday 15 April **Make it Slow** opens at The Folly in Settle where people can catch it until Sunday 29 June 2014.

Come along and take a moment to enjoy the work of these inspiring artists, who all embrace the intrinsic values of the Slow Movement. This is demonstrated through their use of breathtakingly intricate techniques, sustainable materials and their connection with traditional skills. Each object within this inspiring show has its own story to tell and will encourage us to think about how we can apply 'slow' to our hectic modern lives. The artists include:

- **Sharon Adams** creates functionless tools and utensils inspired by the kind of mysterious objects found in museum collections. She has created some new artworks in response to some of the tools in The Folly's Museum of North Craven Life collection.
- **Aimee Betts** is a mixed-media embroidery designer who has an ambition to bring the tradition of embroidery to the forefront of contemporary design practice.
- **Fenella Elms** is a ceramic artist whose wall hung porcelain work is painstakingly created from hundreds of individually made porcelain 'beads'.
- **Lizzie Farey** uses traditional basketry techniques to create sculptural forms from willow, birch, heather, bog myrtle and many other locally grown materials.
- **Chris Keenan** trained under Edmund de Waal and creates works in porcelain with a simple palette including bowls, cups, jars and vases.
- **Misun Won's** intricate handcrafted silver jewellery is inspired by Korean patchwork techniques.

Grace Howell, curator of the exhibition, comments:

"The exhibition highlights how 'slow' processes (thinking, researching, experimenting,) are vital to all craft makers. It also highlights broader issues such as sustainability and consumerism. The artworks featured in *Make it Slow* are an 'antidote' to quickly made, mass produced objects and help us to reconnect with the very human act of making things with our hands."

Make it Slow at The Folly is also part of the Yorkshire Festival to celebrate the Tour De France and is the perfect opportunity to slow down before the big race.

Make it Slow will continue its journey from Settle to:

- No 6 Studio Gallery, Pateley Bridge, North Yorkshire: 9 July to 6 Aug 2014
- The Courthouse, Thirsk, North Yorkshire: 9 Aug to 6 Sept 2014
- Accrington Library, East Lancashire: 11 Sept to 24 Oct 2014

This exhibition is the first of **Art Unpacked**, a series of touring art exhibitions created by Chrysalis Arts. **Art Unpacked** brings the very best of contemporary art and craft to small and unique venues on people's doorstep, so they don't need to travel to cities to see the work of leading artists.

Make it Slow opens at The Folly, Settle on 15 April until 29 June 2014. The Folly is on Victoria Street, Settle BD24 9EY. There is a small admission charge to The Folly. For more info please visit www.artunpacked.co.uk

Make it Slow events at The Folly

Ropework and Braided Adornments workshop with Aimee Betts

When: Wednesday 28 May, 10:30am-12:30pm and 2.00 -4.00pm

Cost: £10 each session, including materials and refreshments

Create your own unique contemporary braided jewellery based on cording, braiding and knotting techniques inspired by Aimee's work. You will take away at least one braided necklace, bracelet or key-ring in this workshop led by a world-class contemporary embroidery designer.

Tools as Art – a talk by artist Sharon Adams

When: Friday 13 June, 7:30pm

Cost: £7

Artist Sharon Adams is fascinated by tools and the connection that we have with making, and the loss of handcrafting from everyday life. Her talk will focus on the ideas behind her work and the artworks in *Make it Slow*. Adams has also been exploring The Folly's own collection of tools and The Folly's Honorary Curator Anne Read will give an introduction to the collection.

To book a place on an event: Email info@chrysalisarts.com or call 01756 748529 to book your place.

ENDS

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Anne Read, Honorary Curator at The Folly, 01524 251388 curator@ncbpt.org.uk

Editors Notes

Chrysalis Arts is a North Yorkshire based arts organisation providing innovative commissions, arts training, and residency programmes as well as running events such as North Yorkshire Open Studios and the Slow Art Trail.

Grace Whowell is an independent curator who works with galleries, museums and arts agencies to curate high quality contemporary craft and design based exhibitions.

The Folly, Settle

The Folly is a beautiful 17th century building in the heart of the market town of Settle in the Yorkshire Dales. Home to the Museum of North Craven Life, The Folly also hosts a programme of events and exhibitions.

The Folly, Victoria Road

Settle BD24 9EY

Tel: 01524 251388

www.artunpacked.co.uk/venues/the-folly-settle/ and www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly/

Funders

Arts Council England's Strategic Touring Programme, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Lancashire County Council and North Yorkshire County Council.

More information about the artists/makers whose work is featured in Make It Slow

Aimee Betts is a contemporary embroiderer who embraces the traditional and the new in her work. She creates adornments using fast digital processes combined with slow traditional hand embroidery techniques. Her work is heavily embellished to create rich and intensely decorated artefacts that reference historical garments. Discontent with ready-made materials, she often prefers to construct her own embellishments and embroidery cords whenever possible by using fast industrial processes such as digital embroidery, laser cutting technology and circular knitting machines and combining them with the slow process of hand embroidery. <http://www.aimeebetts.com/about/>

Fenella Elms is a ceramics artist working in porcelain slip. Her 'Flow' pieces are made from hundreds of individually made porcelain 'beads' that are intuitively placed on a large porcelain sheet and then fired. Each piece is carefully positioned, creating a cohesive body that seems to move and shift with the light. <http://www.fenellaelms.com/pages/ceramics/flows.php>

Lizzie Farey is a sculptor who uses traditional basketry techniques as a starting point for her work. "I have a fascination with living things and natural form. For me, willow has become a medium for an interaction with nature that is deeply personal. Using willow, birch, heather, bog myrtle and many other locally grown woods, my work ranges from traditional to organic sculptural forms." <http://www.lizziefarey.co.uk/About/about.htm>

Chris Keenan had a career as a professional actor, before serving an apprenticeship to Edmund de Waal and setting up his own studio in 1998. He works in porcelain with a simple palette of tenmoku and celadon glazes. Familiar forms of bowls, cups, jars and vases are constantly revisited and refined, paired with new glaze effects to create fresh combinations. His work is domestic in scale and purpose, inviting us to delight in the simple acts of drinking and eating. <http://www.chriskeenan.co.uk/>

Sharon Adams is fascinated by tools and the connection that humans have with making. She makes functionless utensils inspired by the kind of mysterious, defunct objects found in museum collections. "*Making is in our nature, but increasingly 'work' is accomplished by clicking buttons, and 'making' is something we watch others master on reality TV. As individuals continue to consume more than they produce, we are collectively forgetting skills that once sustained everyday life. Handcrafted, the tools embody at least some of the skills they seek to uphold.*" <http://sharonadams.co.uk/>

Misun Won creates intricate silver jewellery that is painstakingly hand-pierced and manipulated. Influenced by Korean patchwork techniques, she makes rhythmical structures and patterns from one sheet of silver, creating complex forms on their own or in combination with other materials such as colour thread and silk cord. After graduating from Edinburgh College of Art in 2008 with a master's degree, she worked at the college as an artist in residence and a visiting lecturer. She recently was a finalist in the contemporary jewellery awards Enjoia't, FAD, Barcelona 2011 and won a gold award for Fashion Production Jewellery in Goldsmiths' Craftsmanship & Design Award in 2008. She has been exhibiting her jewellery in UK, Europe and the USA. Now she is working in her studio at Coburg House Art Studios & Gallery in Leith, Edinburgh. <http://www.misunwonjewellery.com/>