

## Craft Tour

### Contemporary Craft Tour

2011 - Meadowsweet

Archive Craft Tours

2012 - Vanguard

2013 - Miniature Worlds

2014 - Textile Stories

2015 - Rural Craft Re-imagined

2016 - paperscissorsbook

2017 - Luminosity

2018 - Craft+Conflict

Craft Tour - Workshops,  
Demonstrations and Talks

## Contemporary Craft Tour



We are thrilled to announce that the 2018 Craft Tour, Craft+Conflict, has been shortlisted for the Exhibition category of the Cumbria Life Culture Awards. A huge thanks must go to Contemporary Craft Tour Officer, Karen Babayan, as well as to the venues, artists, visitors and funders.

During 2019, we will be considering the longer term future of Highlights Contemporary Craft Tour. Karen left the organisation at the end of 2018, to pursue her own exciting career as a visual artist and project manager – <https://karenbabayan.com/news/>

We will be researching opportunities for digital and multi-cultural work, work for families and young people and expanding our engagement work with younger audiences.

Highlights Contemporary Craft Tour shows the best of contemporary craft in stunning rural locations. Our 'pop-up' exhibition transforms community spaces such as churches, libraries and village halls into contemporary art galleries, showing stunning, challenging, inspiring and surprising work by artists with an established national and international reputation. Our venues in 2018 were in the beautiful counties of Cumbria, Northumberland and Co. Durham.

Workshops in local schools, master classes for adults, artist demonstration days, exhibition tours and artist's talks revealed the stories behind the work, demystifying the process of design, making and exhibiting.

### Photo Credits -

Paul Scott - Cumbrian Blue(s) Foot & Mouth Series

Eva Mileusnic - Counter Flow, ceramic & transfer print

Morwenna Cat - Sweethearts, textiles, print and embroidery

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## Craft Tour - Workshops, Demonstrations and Talks

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Workshops, Demonstrations and Talks:

### Shap, Cumbria

**Artist's talk:** Paul Scott Sat 8 Sept 4.30pm Old Courthouse, Shap CA10 3NL.

Paul is a Cumbrian artist of international repute. He is best known for his Cumbrian Blues series of ceramics which came to public notice in his depiction of the Foot and Mouth crisis. Free but please [book here](#). Donations welcome.

**Artists demonstrations and family drop-in workshop** with Eva Mileusnic Sunday 9th Sept 10am-4pm. Free. Donations welcome. No need to book.

### St. Mary's Church, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria LA6 2AU

**Meet the maker: Sat 20 Oct 10am-4pm.** Meet Mathew Day whose sculptural prosthetics explore the potential for prosthetic limbs that move away from trying to replicate the human form. This work questions the taboo of missing limbs and celebrates body and sculpture in plain sight! FREE!

### Bowlees Visitor Centre, Newbiggin in Teesdale, Co. Durham DL12 0XE

**Masterclass for Teesdale Artists Network: Hybrid Printmaking - Sumi Perera Friday 9 Nov. 10am-4pm**

Funded by Northern Heartlands and by special request by members of TAN, Sumi Perera, artist from Craft + Conflict, will introduce her particular hybrid printmaking methods by which she creates her incredible multimedia assemblages. This is a private event for members of TAN only.

### The Witham, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham DL12 8LY

**Masterclass: Journeys, Maps and Mayhem** – Morwenna Catt Sat. 17 Nov. 10am-4pm  
An opportunity to work with a renowned textile artist who is based between Norway and the UK. Morwenna's installation for Craft+Conflict *Sweethearts and Sandbags* is rooted in the personal experience of her own family in times of war. She will help you create your own personal embroidered maps with text and images. You can bring your own sewing box and any special materials. A variety of textile materials and equipment will be provided. [www.morwennacatt.co.uk](http://www.morwennacatt.co.uk)

Cost £50, places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment! [Book here](#).

### St. Thomas' Church Hall, Stanhope, Co. Durham DL13 2UE

**Meet the maker: Sat 24 Nov 10am - 4pm.** Meet Morwenna Catt Textile Artist whose work explores how conflict has been memorialised. FREE!

**For further information email: [karen@highlightsnorth.co.uk](mailto:karen@highlightsnorth.co.uk) or tel: 017683 53954.**

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## 2018 - Craft+Conflict



Paul Scott Cumbrian Blue(s) Foot & Mouth series

In the year of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War One, Highlights Contemporary Craft tour addresses the pertinent theme of **conflict**, which affects our communities locally, nationally and internationally. In rural environments issues of conservation versus agriculture and industry, of rewilding versus farming are often in the news. In the global environment the devastating effect of war on individuals and communities and culture and the subsequent refugee crisis; and finally, conflicts in relationships and families, personal and professional.

Our artists are carefully selected to bring you the most exciting work being made on the contemporary art scene in the UK and abroad. They include:

- Conrad Atkinson - Ceramic Land Mine**
- Paul Scott - Cumbrian Blue(s) Ceramics**
- Mark Gibbs - Mixed Media Sculptures**
- Mujahid Abu Aljoud - Film**
- Sumi Perera - Mixed Media Assemblages**
- Laura Moreton-Griffiths - Canvas Weapon Replicas and Film**
- Elisabeth Turrell - Enamel and Mixed Media**
- Morwenna Catt - Textile Installation**
- Eva Mileusnic - Ceramic Installation**
- Rhiannon Lewando - Earthenware and Porcelain**
- Mathew Day - The Sculptural potential of prosthetic limbs**
- Johanna Tornqvist - Project Precious Trash**

For the first time, we will also be collaborating with **Aileen Brindle** of **'f.o.a.k.'** who has worked in the international craft sector for over 30 years. Together we have curated a collection of global handmade design connected to the theme of craft and conflict. This will include work from refugees affected by conflict supported by the [UNHCR MADE51](#) programme.

### Venues and dates

**8 - 19 September** [The Old Courthouse](#), Shap, Cumbria CA10 3NL  
Open 10am – 5pm Tel: 01931 716273

**22 - 29 September** [The Forum](#), Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LA14 1HH  
Open 10am – 5pm Monday to Friday and 9am-4pm Saturday, closed Sunday.  
Tel: 01229 820000

**6 -13 October** [The Maritime Centre](#), Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, North'land NE64 6DB  
Open 10am - 4pm Tel: 01670 811951

**15 - 21 October** [St. Mary's Church](#), Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria LA6 2AU  
Open 10am - 4pm Tel: 015242 71320

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**3 - 11 November (weekends only) [Bowlees Visitor Centre](#), Newbiggin, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham DL12 0XE 10.30am to 4pm Tel: 01833 622145**

**13 - 21 November, [The Witham](#) Barnard Castle, Co. Durham DL12 8LY  
Open 10am-4pm Tuesday-Saturday. Tel: 01833 631107**

Also [Designer Makers Market](#) Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 November 10am-4pm

**23 - 25 November [St. Thomas' Church Hall](#), Stanhope, Co. Durham DL13 2UE**

Open 10am - 4pm

**An exciting programme of school workshops, demonstration days and masterclass workshops support the exhibition at each venue.**

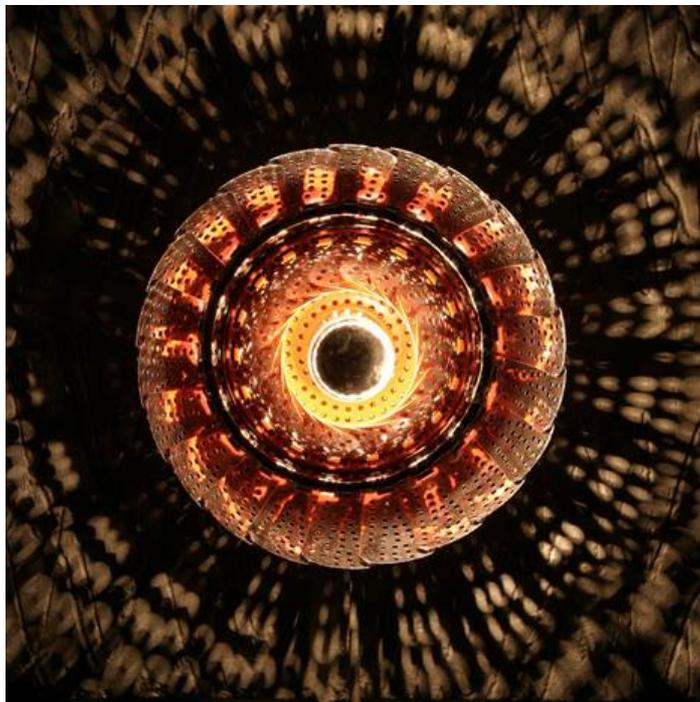
**For further information on the programme of masterclasses and to book click [here](#)**



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## 2017 - Luminosity



*Luminosity*, the 2017 craft tour celebrates LIGHT with an illuminating exhibition of contemporary works by UK and International artists including glass, sculptural textiles, film, electronics, jewellery and neon. Our international artists include Evagelia Hagikalfa from Greece and Statira Jazayeri, a Swedish artist with Iranian roots. Our exhibition in Shap, coincides with C-Art the Cumbria Contemporary Art Festival and this year we are extending Lumiere the Durham Light Festival into the Dale through our venue at St. Thomas' Church Hall, Stanhope, enabling our rural communities to connect with and participate in the excitement of the event.

**Sandra Balmer Kiln-formed & Fused glass**  
**Heather Gillespie Glass Engraving**  
**Evagelia Hagikalfa Light Boxes**  
**Jan Hopkins Mixed Media Installation**  
**Statira Jazayeri Sculptural Textiles**  
**Stuart Langley Neon**  
**Jason Taylor Light Objects**

### TOUR DATES -

**The Old Courthouse, Shap, Cumbria, CA10 3NL**  
15-17 September 10am-5pm (Sunday 17 September - Makers Market at Shap Memorial Hall 11am-4.30pm)  
18-23 September 10am-5pm

**The Witham, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8LY**  
14 Oct-4 Nov 10am - 4pm Tues-Sat

**St Mary's Church, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria LA6 2BA**  
6 - 12 November 10am - 4pm Note: Sunday 12 November opening times 12pm - 4pm  
01524 271320

**St Thomas' church Hall, Stanhope, Co. Durham, DL13 2UE**  
17 - 19 November 10am - 4pm  
01388 528673

**An exciting programme of school workshops, demonstration days and masterclass workshops support the exhibition at each venue.**

**Demonstration day:** Fri 15 Sept Statira Jazayeri at The Old Courthouse, Shap 10am-4pm; Artist's talk at 4.30pm, free but please book! Email: karen@highlightsnorth.co.uk

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For further information on the programme of masterclasses and to book click [here](#)

14 Kings Head Court, Bridge St, Appleby, Cumbria, CA16 6QH | T: 01768 353 954 | E: [info@highlightsnorth.co.uk](mailto:info@highlightsnorth.co.uk)

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## 2016 - paperscissorsbook



### paperscissorsbook

#### Highlights Contemporary Craft Tour 2016

A stunning exhibition showcasing the best of current paper-cut and artist's books. From exquisite hand-cut paper to the latest laser-cut techniques; ambitious sculptural paper works, installation and intimate book works. The artists explore a variety of themes with a deft stitch here, a sharp scalpel there, coated with a generous helping of wry humour. The exhibition shows work by British and international stars of paper-cut and artist's books as well as exciting emerging artists:

Rob Ryan	Mayumi Arakawa
Linda Toigo	Priya Pereira
Andy Singleton	Chloe Wing
Clare Lindley	Jan Hopkins
Christian Barnes	Elizabeth Shorrocks
Annwyn Dean	Les Bicknell
Florence Boyd	Alison Waters
Elizabeth Willow	Claire Peach
Nicky McNaney	Shannon Bartlett-Smith
Marta Daeuble	Joanna Robson

In 2016, we are exploring some new partnerships: [C-Art in Cumbria](#), a county wide open studio and gallery event in September; [Durham Book Festival](#) showing work for the first time in libraries in Weardale and Teesdale and sponsorship from [James Cropper Paper](#). The popular Designer Makers Market will also be at The Witham, Barnard Castle and the Queens Hall Arts Centre and a new Makers Market will be launched at Shap, Cumbria. See below for details.

A programme of papercut and storytelling workshops, talks and demonstrations will be offered at each venue.

#### Dates:

**10-21 Sept The Old Courthouse, Shap, Cumbria CA10 3NL**

A selected display suitable for the library environment

Open: 10-18 Sept 10am-5pm; 19-21 Sept see further opening times:

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[www.theoldcourthouse.org](http://www.theoldcourthouse.org) - Also **Makers Market** on Sunday 11th September at Shap Memorial Hall. Tel: 01931 716273

**23–25 Sept St. Mary's Church**, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria LA6 2AU  
Open 10am-4pm. Tel: 07967 205955

**7–12 Oct Crook Library**, Civic Centre, North Terrace, Crook, Co. Durham DL15 9ES  
A selected display suitable for the library environment. For opening times, see [Crook Library](#) website. Tel: 0300 026 9002

**14–16 Oct St. Thomas' Church Hall**, Stanhope, Co. Durham DL13 2UE  
Open 10am-4pm. Tel: 01388 528673

**11–19 Nov [The Witham](#) & Barnard Castle Library**, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham DL12 8LY.  
The library will show a selected display suitable for the library environment. Also Designer Makers Market 19 & 20 Nov: [www.designermakersmarket.co.uk](http://www.designermakersmarket.co.uk) - Opening times: The Witham - Tues-Sat 10am-4pm, closed Sun & Mon. For library hours please see [Barnard Castle Library](#) website. Tel: 01833 631107

**26 Nov 2016–7Jan 2017 [Queens Hall Arts Centre](#)**, Beaumont Street, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3LS  
Open: 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat, closed Sun. Also [Designer Makers Market](#) Sat 3 Dec. Tel: 01434 652477



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## 2015 - Rural Craft Re-imagined



*Rural Craft Re-imagined...champions British craft, celebrating the contribution of heritage craft to contemporary design. Our artists work passionately, with materials, themes or forms; they craft with expertise and ingenuity but their work is committed to traditional skills. Craft forms were selected for their importance in remote rural environments. All of the artists are extraordinary makers with national reputations:*

**Lizzie Farey** is a willow sculptor and basketmaker who explores every aspect of the traditional craft of basketmaking, including growing all her own materials. Exhibiting widely in the UK and abroad, she has gained a strong reputation for her more artistic works. She says: *"Willow has become a medium for an interaction with nature that is deeply personal. It is my inner voice and like the landscape here, a source of great contentment and calm."*

**Pip Hall** is a lettercarver whose work can be found in the landscape of the north of England and the borders. Working with communities, writers and other artists, her work celebrates our relationship with the landscape. *Stanza Stones*, a collaboration with poet Simon Armitage, resulted in a series of poems inspired by the language and landscape of the Pennine Watershed, carved onto stones across the upland.

**Lynn Settingerton** is known nationally and internationally, for her work in textiles. Lynn became known for using Kantha embroidery (a wholecloth quilting technique from the Indian subcontinent) that uses contemporary motifs. The ordinary and overlooked are celebrated as key themes in her work.

A cabinetmaker by trade, **Bill Robinson's** turned wooden vessels are created from both whole and segments of a wide variety of exotic and native timbers; laminated, turned and polished with the highest level of precision. His commissions have pushed him to make larger, more intricately ambitious pieces and the resulting works are masterpieces of colour and optical illusion.

A passion for the rural landscape of his home in Weardale, Co. Durham drives the work of **Mark Rowney** who works in leather using traditional saddlery techniques. The work is painstakingly carved and painted, with birds, rodents, insects and flowers, jaw-dropping in their detail. At first glance, these works look as if they are a product of a bygone era but the surreal images reveal a fertile and modern imagination.

**Lucy Sandys-Clarke** took over the ancient forge at Dent Smithy, South Cumbria after a five-year apprenticeship. She says: *'I was interested in the grand and global traditions of the craft, but my heart did not lie in the scrolls, disciplined symmetry and stylised foliage of the great master smiths, but in something more elemental and organic.'*

Workshops in local schools, masterclasses for adults, artist demonstration days, tours and talks will highlight the process of making, the role of heritage, the history of craft forms and innovation, giving the local community access to these world-class artists.

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## 2014 - Textile Stories



## Textile Stories

Contemporary Craft Tour

**Textile Stories showcases three artists whose work brings to life real and imagined stories, told through the medium of textiles.**

**Paddy Hartley** tells stories of courage in the face of adversity. His 'Faces of Battle' was the culmination of four years research, design and production in response to the Gillies Archives and the lives of the facially injured servicemen treated by Sir Harold Gillies during World War One.

This Wellcome Trust funded project is considered a landmark science / art collaboration combining surgical, social and military history with a contemporary art making process.

His series of textile works of embroidered, laser-cut and embellished army and navy uniforms tell the harrowing yet inspiring stories of injured servicemen whose faces were reconstructed by this pioneering surgeon.

**Stella Adams Schofield's** stories are of the dignity of daily toil and perseverance. 'The Story of a Quilt' is a personal response into North Country whole cloth quilting and an exploration of the processes involved in the making of a whole cloth quilt (made from a solid piece of fabric as the top layer).

Immersing herself in the cloth making processes of spinning and weaving to create the cloth that she has layered and stitched, Stella uses video and photography to record the processes and incorporates the still and moving images into installations that combine both textile and new media.

Otherwise known as Durham quilts, North Country quilts have a long history in north-east England, dating back to the Industrial Revolution and beyond. North Country quilts are often "whole-cloth" quilts, that emphasize the quilting itself as the decoration.

Although often simple in design, many of these quilts are stunning works of art, with great pride taken in the fine and even stitching.

**Debra Roberts** tells a fascinating story of the values of thrift and patience through the reconstruction of a late eighteenth century sack back gown. The dress, found in a box bought at an auction, has been carefully taken apart, the shadows of old seams and stitches carefully photographed and recorded and the dress, finally reconstructed.

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The Sack Back Dress, also known as 'robe a la francaise' once at the height of late 18th Century fashion, had fabric at the back arranged in box pleats which fell loose from the shoulder to the floor with a slight train. Roberts' fascination in the shadows of stitches and seams invites us to imagine who might have worn the dress and what their life struggles and celebrations might have been.

Work that is inspired and informed by the exhibition made by local schools and community groups during workshops, will also be displayed.

Artists will be in residence during two days of the show in each venue.



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## 2013 - Miniature Worlds



**Jewellery by Rose Ashley, Jessica Howarth, Jennifer Ho & Marie Canning; textiles by Laura Jones, Serena Partridge & Rachael Nila Whittaker; ceramics by Mayumi Yamashita & Anna Krengel; mixed media by Rosie Wates & LEO; film by Maggie Hall**

The 2013 Craft Tour celebrates work that is miniature but monumental in its ambition, exploring memory, the human condition, the beauty of nature and objects of remembrance, with participating artists from the UK, Berlin, Japan and the USA.

**Rose Ashley, Jessica Howarth, Jennifer Ho and Marie Canning** are jewellers who make exquisite miniature objects: Rose Ashley from Eden in Cumbria explores the mystery of the subconscious through symbols – wings, sails, trees, ladders and lanterns.

**Jessica Howarth** from Edinburgh creates tiny village installations that double up as enamelled jewellery, based on her travels around India; Jessica Ho celebrates her mixed Scottish and Chinese heritage in hand-me-down stories, explored through drawings and tiny, intricately forged silver objects. Marie Canning from Liverpool works in porcelain and is inspired by the Victorian use of herbal medicines. Her small vessels can be worn, helping to keep the wearer safe and well.

**Laura Jones, Serena Partridge and Rachael Nila Whittaker** tell stories through textiles: Laura works from her home town of Bath. Her installation of tiny shoes are inspired by the tokens and objects from the Foundling Hospital Museum in London, evoking heart rending stories of children and their mothers; Rachael is based in Bolton, Lancashire and her stories are those of the microcosm of nature, explored through fragments that are enlarged and abstracted.

**Serena Partridge's** passion for historic European costume is displayed in her finely detailed objects. Based in Malton, North Yorkshire, her disembodied clothes mirror classic stories and inspire fantastic worlds.

**Mayumi Yamashita and Anna Krengel's** ceramics explore the tragedy of the human condition. Anna came to the UK from the USA as a student and stayed with a host family. Her subsequent strong friendship with Joan Tindall, her surrogate mother, is celebrated through hundreds of tiny funerary urns in which Joan's ashes have been placed. Mayumi from Japan, fuses natural and industrial landscapes; her objects are made monumental by the tiny human figures that are placed onto them. Her work plays with the cycles of life and death, destruction and rebirth.

Kendal-based **Rosie Wates'** haunting photographic images use her own family history of immigration from Russia to England in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Staged in boxes, these tiny travellers stand, suitcase in hand and frozen in time. LEO was artist in residence at VARC (Visual Artists in Rural Communities) in Tarsset, Northumberland. Based in Berlin and London, his work is cheeky but thought provoking, joining the cityscape with the rural landscape through the medium of graffiti, that furtively questions the role of ownership in the heart of rural Northumberland. Maggie Hall's videos capture a sense of energy and movement that is mesmerising. Her work is often about the process of making: the drawing, painting, tearing, changing of materials from one to another, the alchemy of art.

Visitors will be invited to explore these exquisite Miniature Worlds: inspiring stories of what it is to be human and of the wonder of nature, through interactive devices, peepholes, microscopes and magnifying glasses.

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**3<sup>rd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> May Newbiggin Maritime Centre, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Northumberland  
NE64 6DB Tel: 01670 811951**

**17<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> May Askham & Helton Village Hall, Askham, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 2PG  
Tel: 01931 712292**

**24<sup>th</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup> May St Thomas' Church Hall, Stanhope, Weardale, Co. Durham DL13  
2UE Tel: 01388 528673 / 07776 243795**

**31<sup>st</sup> May- 3<sup>rd</sup> June BURC (formerly St. Paul's Church), Spittal, Northumberland  
TD15 1QY Tel: 0775 2403409**

**14<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup> June Hamsterley Village Hall, Teesdale, Co. Durham, DL13 3QF Tel:  
01388 488323 / 01388 488318**

**21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> June St Mary's Church, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria, LA6 2AU  
Tel: 015242 71320 / 07515 327598**

**28th-30th June Arts Outwest, The Kirkgate Centre, Kirkgate, Cockermouth,  
CA13 9PJ Tel: 01900 829966**

The exhibition welcomes FREE school visits on the Friday of each exhibition (except Spittal which is on the Monday) booking essential. One of the artists will be available on the Fri & Sat of each exhibition weekend to meet members of the public, to talk about and demonstrate their work. (except Spittal which is on Sun & Mon).

The exhibition will be open 11am - 5pm

For further information contact: Karen Babayan,

Contemporary Craft Tour Officer

karen@highlightsnorth.co.uk

Tel: 017683 53464



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## 2012 - Vanguard



The Wedgewoodn't Tureen by Michael Eden courtesy of Adrian Sassoon

Innovative, pioneering, experimental, hothouse, progressive, radical, avant-garde, mindblowing CRAFT...the **2012 Highlights Contemporary Craft Tour** will show work by artists and craftspeople that through single minded perseverance, research and experimentation, have exploded their traditional craft heritage into the realms of fantasy and adventure.... from crocheting with glass to the marriage of clay and computers; to jewellery that uses 3D Printing software, a rapid prototyping technology and CAD (computer aided design) designed cardboard furniture.

### Touring exhibition venues & dates

**Duffton Village Hall, Eden Valley, Cumbria CA16 6DB**  
Fri 4 - Mon 7 May  
Tel: 017683 52902

**Church of St Mary the Virgin, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria LA6 2AU**  
Thurs 10 - Sun 13 May  
Tel: 07515 327598 / 015242 71320

**St Thomas' Church Hall, Stanhope, Weardale, DL13 2UE**  
Fri 18 - Sun 20 May  
Tel: 01388 528673

**Hamsterley Village Hall, Teesdale, Co. Durham DL13 3QF**  
Fri 25 - Sun 27 May  
Tel: 01388 488323 / 488318

**Newbiggin Maritime Centre, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Northumberland NE64 6DB**  
Fri 8 - Sat 16 June  
Tel: 01670 811951 (Centre Open 10am - 5pm)

### Craft Tour Opening Times

11.00am - 5.00pm

Small admission charges apply, see individual venues

Full disabled access

Have you seen the exhibition? We would love to hear your feedback! Please complete the following short survey to enable us to make our next Craft Tour bigger and better!

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<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/85VS9WP>

**Michael Eden** explores the relationship between hand and digital tools, investigating rapid manufacturing technology and materials that play with traditional ceramic forms. ([www.edenceramics.co.uk](http://www.edenceramics.co.uk))

**Nora Fok** is a jeweller who transforms nylon micro-filament through the process of knitting, knotting, weaving and tying and recently has been using rapid prototyping technology in the form of '3D Printing'. ([www.norafok.com](http://www.norafok.com))

Catherine Fuga Carr has developed a range of knitted and crocheted vessels in glass, applying traditional fibre skills to an innovative process of recycled glass products. ([www.catherinecarrglass.co.uk](http://www.catherinecarrglass.co.uk))

**Lazerian** is a creative practice focused on the creation of functional objects through playful investigation of materials and processes. Recent collections include furniture created from recycled cardboard, inspired by the structure of crystals and wasps nests. ([www.lazerian.co.uk](http://www.lazerian.co.uk))





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## 2011 - Meadowsweet



### Highlights Contemporary Craft Tour 2011

Highlights is celebrating its seventh Contemporary Craft Tour during the early summer of 2011. A stunning exhibition of work by three Contemporary Makers inspired by the theme of hay meadows, dovetailing with the Highlights' tour of the commissioned play: 'Sward! The Story of a Meadow'.

Ellie Langley is a felt maker living and working in the dramatic landscape of the North Pennines 'Area of Outstanding Beauty', on an environmentally award-winning smallholding. Her inspiration, source of material and sense of aesthetic come from the sheep which graze the local meadows. Her work is beautiful yet functional and ranges from the everyday rugs, hats and handbags to the more unusual, coffins and wedding dresses. Ellie blog page [www.fleecewithaltitude.co.uk](http://www.fleecewithaltitude.co.uk)

Sarah Mitchell's constructed book-works amaze and astound in their complexity. Her books are made by using simple cutting, folding and stitching techniques with subjects close to nature such as grass, birds and snakes, revealed through silhouettes, complex concertina structures and imaginative use of stitch and thread. Mitchell's bookworks are subtle evocations of personal childhood memories. <http://littlepaperbird.blogspot.com>

Allyson Gee recently graduated from the Glasgow School of Art. Her work was shown at the New Designers exhibition at the Business Design Centre, London, and features in the Sept/Oct 2010 issue of Crafts Magazine. Using real specimens of butterflies and bees in her jewellery, Gee is inspired by the collections of butterflies in museums. She says: "Collections and the motivation behind them are always present in my work...drawing aesthetic inspiration from this, I create geometric structures that imitate the display cases that the insects and butterflies are held in." [allysongee.blogspot.com](http://allysongee.blogspot.com)

Dates for the 2011 Contemporary Craft Tour are:

### Saturday 30 April – Tuesday 3 May

The Meditation Centre, Flintergill, Dent, South Lakes, Cumbria, LA10 5QR Tel: 015396 25022

In conjunction with Dentdale Walking Festival & Open Studio Weekend

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

### Friday 6 – Sunday 8 May

Barnham Village Hall, Teesdale, County Durham, DL11 7DQ Tel: 01833 621203

### Friday 20 – Sunday 22 May

Pegswood Community Project, Pegswood, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 5XG Tel: 01670 512185

### Friday 27 – Monday 30 May

Dufton Village Hall, Cumbria, CA16 6DB Tel: 017683 52902

### Friday 3 – Sunday 5 June

St Thomas' Church Hall, Stanhope, Weardale, Co Durham, DL13 2UE Tel: 01388 528673.

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## Craft Tour

[Contemporary Craft Tour](#)

[2011 - Meadowsweet](#)

### Archive Craft Tours

[2012 - Vanguard](#)

[2013 - Miniature Worlds](#)

[2014 - Textile Stories](#)

[2015 - Rural Craft Re-imagined](#)

[2016 - paperscissorsbook](#)

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## Archive Craft Tours

Highlights' Contemporary Craft Tour mirrors the strengths of the performing arts rural touring scheme. This tours high-quality theatre, music and dance to isolated rural communities that would not otherwise have the opportunity to see work of that standard without travelling substantial distances.

The Contemporary Craft Tour aims to provide rural communities with access to high-quality craft that is usually only accessible in urban areas. The tour uses the existing network of venues and volunteer promoters. It takes place in May and June at the end of the performing arts season and is scheduled to take advantage of two Bank Holiday weekends.

Highlights was originally approached by the North Pennine Arts Working Group to incorporate 'Designed for the Dales' into its annual programme and to look at ways of developing the project to run alongside the existing performing arts programme. In 2004, we ran a pilot contemporary Craft Tour – '*Out of the Wood*' - which explored the demand for contemporary crafts and assessed how such a project would fit in with our performing arts programme. The pilot was very successful, achieving higher numbers of visitors than anticipated and selling more work than expected. In 2006, we ran our second touring exhibition – '*Metal*'; in 2007 we toured weaving in the '*Taking up the Thread*' exhibition, and we toured contemporary knitting in our '*Knit 2gether*' exhibition in 2008. '*Paper Trail*' explored the 3-dimensional properties of paper in 2009.

This year's tour, '*Thrift & Thread*' – *Contemporary Heirlooms by Mandy Pattullo*, our first Craft Tour by a solo artist, explored the theme of recycling through textiles, looking to a past age of thriftiness, of make-do-and-mend. Mandy Pattullo, a Newcastle based artist, is passionate about sharing traditional skills in sewing with a new generation, about revaluing the 'home-made' and encouraging the reworking of old and discarded textiles (See '*Thrift & Thread*' Further Information)

As a complete antidote to 'throw away' culture, the workshops organised in the run up to and during the exhibition, refashioned fabric, clothes, socks, gloves and hats into garments and toys to be worn, played with and would tell their own story through dance, with the support of Virginia Kennedy, a dance and drama specialist. The exhibition and objects made by children and community groups certainly unravelled tales of cherished moments and memories to inspire movement through dance and play to with identity. The resulting exhibition of work by Mandy Pattullo as well as the work made by local schools and community groups, displayed alongside, was very successful in creating and rekindling new interest in old textiles, and prompting visitor reminiscences.

### [Thrift & Thread' Further Information](#)

#### Artist's Work - Mandy Pattullo

Mandy has a 1st Class degree in International Textiles and Surface Pattern. She is interested in the decorative, textural and colour possibilities within creating textiles and the way stitch can be used to create marks in the same way as drawing. Background research into a process or concept is key and then she uses drawing, sampling and photography to get her going. She primarily uses hand and machine stitching combined with applique, quilting and print.

In recent years she has rediscovered hand stitching and is an advocate of slow design. After 20 years of working with textiles Mandy has accumulated a huge amount of fabric and inspirational "stuff" which surrounds her in her attic studio at The Hearth, Horsley, Northumberland. Her artfully arranged collection of tools and threads, piles of vintage fabric and her pin boards are a mass of colourful images and postcards which inspire her work. Much of what she surrounds herself with is inherited from past generations of sewing women.

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For this exhibition Mandy has looked to a past age of thriftiness and make do and mend. Her aim was to create pieces which would make the viewer look again at old textiles which might be past their use by date. She is particularly passionate about very worn old patchwork quilts which were often made of old dressmaking off-cuts, old clothing and tailor's samples. Mandy has carefully re-examined the quilts, often unpicking them completely into their original scraps, and to discover hidden layers and sometimes even other worn quilts inside. She is interested in the shadows and marks that appear when she takes apart other women's stitches and also the effect of light, wear and tear on the fabrics. Many of the quilts in this exhibition were too worn and tattered to be functional on a bed but have been re-valued by being made into unique garments or hangings.

