

Press release

Digital Forum for Designer-makers

Hidden Art Cornwall offers Cornish designer-makers the opportunity to think digital.

Hidden Art Cornwall, in partnership with Creative Skills and Autonomic, the 3D Digital Production Research Cluster at University College Falmouth, invites designer-makers to a one-day professional development forum, 'Future Making with Digital Technologies'.

Taking place from 9.30am to 4.30pm on Friday 30 March at University College Falmouth's Tremough Campus, the forum will explore how digital technologies can open up new ways of working, generate the development of innovative products and help create access to new markets. It is open to all designer-makers in Cornwall.

The forum will bring together specialist practitioners from the design industry, working with digital technologies across a range of disciplines from jewellery and ceramics to furniture and textiles. Speakers include Dave Turtle from the RCA Jewellery Innovation Centre, Tavs Jorgensen, freelance ceramic designer and 3D digital production research fellow at University College Falmouth, textile and interior product designer Jo Pierce of re-surface design, textiles writer, curator and researcher, Sarah E. Braddock Clarke, and furniture designer-maker Olivier Geoffroy of Unto This Last. The forum will be chaired by Cluster Leader Dr Katie Bunnell.

Thanks to funding from South West Regional Development Agency and Arts Council South West, we are able to offer this forum at the subsidised cost of £15 (£10 for members of Hidden Art Cornwall) including lunch and refreshments. To book your place contact Creative Skills on 01209 218879 or email: admin@creativeskills.org.uk

To find out more about joining Hidden Art Cornwall, contact Charlotte Tangye on 01326 253696 or visit www.hiddenartcornwall.co.uk/membership.

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For more information on this event visit www.hiddenartcornwall.co.uk/forums

Hidden Art Cornwall is the pilot franchise of Hidden Art in association with University College Falmouth. Visit www.hiddenartcornwall.co.uk and www.falmouth.ac.uk

For more information on Hidden Art Cornwall, contact Jessie Higginson, tel: 01326 253696, email: jessie@hiddenartcornwall.co.uk

CREATIVE
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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Hidden Art Cornwall

Hidden Art Cornwall is a not-for-profit membership organisation that supports and promotes designer-makers who live or work in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, offering companies and members of the public access to original design. Our aim at Hidden Art Cornwall is to increase awareness for the quality of work being made in the county by offering local designer-makers a range of services to help strengthen their profiles and grow their businesses. Current members include a textile embroiderer in Penzance, an architectural glass maker in Helston, a crochet jeweller in Porthtowan and a lighting designer in Falmouth.

As demand for high quality design grows, opportunities for businesses are expanding. Translating creativity into practical output is a difficult and complex process, and this is where Hidden Art Cornwall can help, by improving access to information, enabling the exchange of ideas and expertise and providing a platform for designer-makers to exhibit and sell work, products and designs to key markets and the public.

Lucy Turner a designer-maker who makes interior products and has recently joining Hidden Art Cornwall said "I believe Hidden Art is a well respected organisation and I want to be part of it." Poppy Treffry a textile designer-maker and also a recent member has said "Hidden Art Cornwall is an interesting and contemporary initiative; I like the possibility of doing things as a group and so saving money and having a stronger presence."

About Hidden Art

Hidden Art is the trading name of Mazorca Projects, a not-for-profit organisation. Over the past 10 years, Hidden Art has driven the growth of the design sector in east London. The partners and funders of Mazorca Projects have recognised the benefit to designer-makers and the Department for Trade and Industry has awarded funding to help replicate the Hidden Art success story with its first franchise, Hidden Art Cornwall.

Hidden Art began in 1994 as a small open studios event showing the work of 43 Hackney-based designer-makers. A decade on, it has developed into a unique network, supporting over 1,800 designer-makers and building links between the creative and manufacturing industries and their clients.

Contact: Yasmine Chinwala, tel: 020 7729 3800, email: yasmine@hiddenart.co.uk, www.hiddenart.com

About Creative Skills

Creative Skills is the Continuing Professional Development agency for practitioners working within the Creative Industries in Cornwall. Providing highly appropriate support and encouragement, Creative skills addresses issues which have been seen as barriers to sustainable growth to the small scale and micro creative businesses in Cornwall.

Developed from an Objective Two project – 'Training for Arts' – Creative Skills started in 2002. Funded by the European Social Fund via Objective One and Arts Council England and, subsequently, the Learning and Skills Council via co-financing, Creative Skills has, to date, assisted at least 1300 people across this wide ranging sector, helping them to develop their creative and economic potential. In what is often felt to be an alien world, Creative Skills provides validity and tailor made professional development to the Creative Industries workforce. In some ways acting as a hub, Creative Skills fosters the development of networks, collaborations and connections.

The services that Creative Skills provide have been developed as a result of the needs expressed by the practitioners working within the Creative Industries sector. This ensures that training, information, advice and guidance are, at all times, relevant to the practitioners with whom they work.

Contact: tel: 01209 218879, email: admin@creativeskills.org.uk, www.creativeskills.co.uk

About the University College Falmouth 3D Research Cluster

The 'Autonomic' research cluster at University College Falmouth undertakes design experiments in the use of 3D digital production technologies. Through 'hands on' investigations we attempt to find new ways of embedding computer-aided design and computer aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM) into our creative processes of designing through making. We have a basic creative urge to try out new methods of making things, to ask "what if?", "so what?" and "what next?" From our developing understanding of new ways of working, we are evolving design research projects that aim to extend the working capabilities of small scale 3D design practitioners.

The core skills of the research team lie in our combined abilities and experience as designer-makers who have been actively researching the use of digital technologies over the last 10 years. Like other designer-makers, our highly individualistic and autonomous approach to using technologies results in innovative, idiosyncratic forms and processes. The results of using 3D digital manufacturing equipment in this way are challenging the boundaries between craft and industrial production. Our research outcomes contribute to a growing area design research of interest to product designers, craft practitioners, design users and manufacturers.

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About University College Falmouth

University College Falmouth is internationally known for its undergraduate and postgraduate courses in art, design and media. In March 2004, its standing and quality were recognised when the Privy Council granted the College the power to award its own taught degrees.

In 2003 the College opened the Design Centre, part of a £130million development funded under the Combined Universities in Cornwall initiative. The Design Centre provides stunning new facilities for courses in Contemporary Crafts, 3D and Spatial Design, Textile Design, Garden Design and it houses the new Research Cluster in 3D Digital Production.

University College Falmouth is a founding partner in the Combined Universities in Cornwall initiative, which is funded mainly by the European Union (Objective One), the South West Regional Development Agency, and the Higher Education Funding Council for England, with support from Cornwall County Council.

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Hidden Art Cornwall is operated by University College Falmouth and part funded by the European Union

