

Cutting Design

26 March – 2 June 2002

This small special exhibition, held in the Geffrye Design Centre, will highlight the work of selected contemporary designers and makers working with cutlery in London today. It complements the Geffrye's main exhibition *Cutting Edge*, which features five thousand years of the cutler's art in a stunning collection of knives, forks and spoons ranging from the New Stone Age to the 1950s.

The work displayed will celebrate, challenge and demonstrate the diversity of the discipline of cutlery. Some pieces function as cutlery, some as art pieces and others as jewellery. Materials used include silver, stainless steel and ceramics, and techniques incorporate casting, firing, piercing, waterjet cutting and hot forging.

The Worshipful Company of Cutlers will award a special prize for the best piece of cutlery design in the show, judged by a panel of experts.

Exhibitors

Maike Dahl

Jonathan Levien and Nipa Doshi of Doshi Levien Design Office

Kay Ivanović

Lisa Marklew

Rebecca de Quinn

William Phipps

Lucian Taylor

Susana Shaw

Diana Greenwood

William Warren

(Please see overleaf for Exhibitor Statements)

For further information or transparencies, please contact Nancy Loader, Press and PR Officer, on 020 773 9893 or nloader@geffrye-museum.org.uk.

18 February 2002

Cutting Design

Exhibitor Statements

Maike Dahl

'My interest is to bring silver back into our daily life. I want to make silverware, which is easy to handle and dishwasher safe. The most precious thing about silver is to use it'.

Jonathan Levien

'I have always enjoyed making; sculpting by hand to translate my ideas into a physical form. It is an essential part of my design process and the most direct way of expressing myself. I enjoy the balancing of free form with the logic of geometry to create designs that have a sense of order combined with sensuality. I want my designs to have an ease of use, a tactile appeal, a hint of association. Ultimately, I like to create special things, which have a lasting value'.

Kay Ivanović

'I aim to make pieces that are graceful, sculptural and still serve their function well; skirting the margin of art and craft. My work tries to say something, i.e. to express the silky fluidity of a swimming fish or the airy strength of a feathered wing'.

Lisa Marklew

'Cooking and serving implements have long been a fascination for me, feeding into every aspect of my work. Further research in this area has only 'served' to whet my appetite... The fact that my material is ceramic encourages a thoughtful, precious, more considered use at the table. I have become intrigued by the cases, which both protected and displayed cutlery...it made me recognise the esteem in which cutlery was held, it travelled with its owner as a precious personal belonging. Our attitude today is quite the opposite. Plastic knives and forks lay discarded on the streets.'

Rebecca de Quinn

'My influences are wide-ranging, and I absorb information in direct response to my surroundings, an image or something written. A discovery during the activity of making can be the trigger for a new idea. I can become involved with the conditions of form and decoration. I have expressed my ideas through pieces in which sculptural aspects dominate as a result of exploring a particular theme. Decorative elements related directly to function and can provide the means by which an object operates'.

William Phipps

'I have always been interested in producing work from the most basic form, i.e. forging from bars or raising from sheet metal. I like the feeling of the article gradually forming under the hammer...when you are forging hot metal I like the feeling that you have to think and act fast before it goes cold. Then you plan your next move while you are heating it up'.

Lucian Taylor

'Silver is a material that is taken too seriously. It is my duty and pleasure to tease it, prod it, poke it and generally have fun messing with it. That said, I still work very much in the tradition of British Silversmithing in that utility is the starting point for all my work'.

Susana Shaw

'My design plans are to continue to develop emotional, functional and narrative stories via cutlery both as art-expressive tableaux and as experience-enhancing mass-produced and widely available economical products'.

Diana Greenwood

'My current work, which includes silver jewellery, cutlery, vessels, tableware and wall boxes, is inspired by leaves, plants and flowers with an emphasis on simple, clean, organic shapes and forms'.

William Warren

'I am a cutlery magpie. My kitchen drawer is full of classics from Robert Welch to British Airways. It's difficult to do anything new in cutlery design. Knives, forks and spoons look the way they do because they have evolved through use. My design dares to be different, and makes a visual reference to the generic cutlery silhouette'.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. *Cutting Design* is one of a series of special exhibitions showing the best in contemporary design and craft, selected on the basis of merit. The Geffrye Design Centre contributes to the economic and cultural regeneration of East London by providing a valuable one-stop resource for architects, interior designers, retail buyers and others looking for innovation and quality in current design. It is supported by London Arts.
2. The Geffrye is the only museum in the UK to specialise in the domestic interiors and furniture of the urban middle-class. Its displays span from 1600 to 2000, forming a sequence of period rooms which capture the quintessential nature of English interior style. The museum is set in the former almshouses of the Ironmongers' Company, elegant 18th century buildings with a modern extension. It is surrounded by tranquil gardens, including an award-winning walled herb garden and a series of period garden rooms.
3. The Geffrye Museum is an independent charitable trust, grant-aided by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The Trust actively seeks to attract donations and corporate sponsorship to support the museum's services and development plans.
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| Admission: | FREE | | | | |
| Address: | Kingsland Road, Shoreditch, London E2 | | | | |
| Tel No: | 020 7739 9893 | | | | |
| Recorded Info: | 020 7739 8543 | | | | |
| Web Address: | www.geffrye-museum.org.uk | | | | |
| Email Address: | info@geffrye-museum.org.uk | | | | |
| Opening Hours: | <table><tr><td>Open</td><td>Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm Sundays & Bank Holidays 12 - 5pm</td></tr><tr><td>Closed</td><td>Mondays (unless Bank Holiday), Good Friday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day</td></tr></table> | Open | Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm Sundays & Bank Holidays 12 - 5pm | Closed | Mondays (unless Bank Holiday), Good Friday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day |
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| Travel: | <table><tr><td>Buses</td><td>149, 242, 243 or 67</td></tr><tr><td>Tube</td><td>Liverpool St, then bus 149 or 242 Old St (exit 2), then bus 243</td></tr></table> | Buses | 149, 242, 243 or 67 | Tube | Liverpool St, then bus 149 or 242 Old St (exit 2), then bus 243 |
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