

ARNOLFINI

Craftivism responds to the resurgent interest in craft as it relates to socially-engaged art practice. It involves fourteen projects developed by artists and collectives that work with craft-based traditions and activist practices, and who employ the tactics of 'craftivism' (combining crafting + activism) to question and disrupt the prevailing codes of mass consumerism.

The project attempts to collapse the distinction between 'making' and 'doing' - the former associated with craft, the latter with human action. It places an emphasis on interaction and participation in the wider social realm, and employs aspects of self-organisation and 'open-source' principles. The artists involved engage with craft-based traditions through diverse practices including art, technology and fashion. Selected works exemplify 'innovation' in the general sense that newly invented forms might diverge from established rules and perceived norms.

Craftivism has been developed in relation to a range of contexts and includes nine artist-led participatory projects produced with participants and local communities. The outcomes of these are shown as part of the gallery-based interactive exhibition, online and in free software-related projects, workshops, talks and the uncurated satellite event *unCraftivism*. Events also take place at Brandon Hill Park, Colston Hall, Full Circle – St Paul's Youth and Family Centre, Knowle West Media Centre and The Mall Bristol.

The project invites public interaction and provides opportunities to take part, make work and learn craft-based skills to customise products. It encourages wider communities to embrace the 'freedom' to create, modify and distribute products, and in so doing demonstrates the possibilities for people to modify their own lives.

Handmade Hero

Rhiannon Chaloner (UK)

+ Manuel Vason (IT/UK)

**+ participants *hosted*
by CSF Wrestling**

This project brings together a small team of locally based pro-style wrestlers to participate in designing and constructing alternative masked or costumed alter-egos. After working with the artist to re-appropriate material from personally relevant clothing and objects, that integrate other areas of their lives, the participants' new identities have been photographed by Manuel Vason. The final results are displayed as bill posters that map the route between Arnolfini and Colston Hall.

A small archive exhibition *British Wrestling Legends* documenting the golden age of pro-wrestling including Mad Eli's spectacular collection, will

be presented in Colston Hall ground floor gallery for a week in January where the artist will be in residence.



² **Food for Free *Brandon Hill*** **The *Rosehip Trade***

Kayle Brandon
+ Heath Bunting (UK)

As part of the artists' ongoing mapping project, visitors are invited to view Bristol via the edible plant organisms living within the city's public spaces. Edible feral, wild and domestic plants can be located, identified and harvested using this map that excludes road names in favour of plant names. The artists have selected a section of their map to be rendered as a brass memorial plaque, focusing on Brandon Hill. Visitors are invited to make their own *Food for Free* brass rubbing to take away and use in the Park where the plaque will be re-located in Spring 2010, a short walk from Arnolfini. In Arnolfini Café Bar, *The Rosehip Trade* invites public contributions of foraged rosehips as ingredients for its menu in exchange for a rosehip drink and recipe leaflet that explores the different histories of this seasonal fruit.

http://duo.irrational.org/food_for_free



³ CASSAVA

Gloria Ojulari *Sule* (UK) + participants *hosted* by Full Circle *St Paul's* Youth and *Family Centre*

CASSAVA (*Clothing Art Saying Something and Valuing Alternatives*) takes the form of two-person and three-person costumes produced through a collaborative process with an intergenerational group of women. This process involved the reworking of recycled clothing using Yoruba indigo hand-dyeing processes and Dutch wax prints; cloth traditionally associated with Nigerian cultural dress. The costumes, Egungun (3 in 1), Gelede (2 in 1) and Yemaya (1 in 2), reference Yoruba masquerade and cultural traditions. Visitors are invited to collectively try on and wear the composite costumes around the exhibition. CASSAVA was first shown at Full Circle

and will be worn by its makers in the 2010 St Paul's Carnival.

www.gloarts.co.uk



⁴*The Knitting Salon*

Trevor Pitt (UK)
+ Kate Pemberton (UK)
+ participants *hosted by*
Knowle West Media Centre

This soft public sculpture has been produced through a collaborative process with local knitters involving wool and yarn sourced from a local flock of Jacob sheep. Visitors are encouraged to use the bench as a platform for dialogue and sharing knitting skills using the resources offered or bring in their own knitting. Sessions facilitated by local knitters can be booked by appointment through Arnolfini box office and a knitting pattern PK2 documenting the process of making *Salon Bench Knowle West* is available to take away. This is part of a 'flock' of eight benches produced by self-organised salons around the UK which will take part in an event at The Mall Bristol in January.

www.trevorpitt.com



⁵ *DIY Shades of Bristol*

Clare Thornton (UK)
+ local residents

This is a city-wide colour mapping project investigating everyday notions of Do-It-Yourself culture and colour associations relating to home and neighbourhood. The 'map' produced is a limited edition swatch book recording the personal shades and DIY top-tips shared with the artist through over 60 conversations and encounters across Bristol. The swatch book and a selection of self-mixed eco-paints are presented and then (re)distributed via participants and their networks. An eco-paint mixing day is a free open studio activity (supported by Naturepaint). The artist is also creating a special family event as part of the Mash Up day in February.

<http://clare-thornton.blogspot.com>

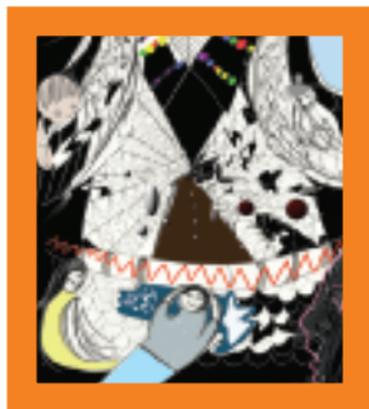


⁶ *Extended Family*

Mandy McIntosh (UK) + West Country Knotters

Mandy McIntosh is a former knitwear designer for fashion house Kenzo. She left Paris in the 90s to develop a practice which includes film, animation, socially-engaged 'public art' and design. *Extended Family* is a leap from knitting to knots, produced through a collaborative process with Europa Chia-Ching Dawson and Richard Hopkins, local members of the West Country branch of the International Guild of Knot Tyers. This cluster of play, sitting and hammock objects provides a social space in the gallery. Visitors are invited to relax, talk, people watch, or browse books in the artist's craft reference library which dates back to the first knitting book she acquired at a school prize-giving as a thirteen year old in the 1970s.

www.ham-and-enos.org.uk



⁷/mode + v noise

**GOTO10 (NL/FR/UK)
+ workshop participants**

GOTO10 are a collective of international artists and programmers, dedicated to Free/Libre/Open Source Software (FLOSS) and software art. Before the exhibition opened, GOTO10 facilitated a three day public workshop to create software sound synthesisers and different internet chat bots. The results have been left on site in the gallery and are also available online. During Craftivism, GOTO10 are also distributing their free software Puredyne, a complete and ready-made environment for artists and developers who are looking for a free operating system dedicated to real time audio and video processing.

<http://slashmodeplusvnoise.goto10.org>

<http://puredyne.goto10.org>



⁸ *bau-Stelle*

Christine and Irene Hohenbüchler (AT) + Young Arnolfini Artists Collective (YAAC)

Christine and Irene Hohenbüchler present a new version of their multiple authorship project *bau-Stelle* produced through a collaborative process with a group of young people aged 17-18 based at North Bristol Post 16 Centre (Cotham School). Visitors are invited to re-create *bau-Stelle* throughout the duration of the exhibition. Participants take part in creating a sculpture: wooden elements, like components of an oversized erector set can be put together to form a latticework, but can also be taken apart again and rearranged by visitors. A mixture of furniture, sculpture and architecture emerges and changes – spatially – again and again. Colourful rugs on the floor and painted walls structure and tie the space together.



°A short study of individuality and difference amongst bees and their products

Janek Simon (PL)

Janek Simon has developed a display in collaboration with the scientist Józef Bukowski that explores the individual psychology of bees, and how this effects the making of honeycomb. Seemingly meticulously crafted, honeycomb is produced by bees with an incredible array of difference. This scientific display presents the bees in a way that allows the individualism to be seen in their bodily forms, their behaviour and their productivity. Remaining pragmatic at its core, Simon's work seeks to bypass mainstream modes for producing culture and objects, often to exist within his personal cycle of manufacturing.

His works give the appearance of simplicity, yet they offer insight into possibilities for a wider understanding of how things work or are made. A colouring book is available for visitors to take away.



¹⁰ *Anti-Factory Bristol*

Stephanie Syjuco (US) **+ Labour Behind the Label**

Stephanie Syjuco presents a workspace in which visitors are invited to sort through used clothing (which would have been shipped to the 'Third World' after going through second-hand channels in the UK) and rework/remix with others from the pile. Interrupting the flow of cast-off garments (from overseas factory to First World, to second-hand, then back to the Third World), by repurposing them within the First World raises larger issues about systems of global trade, manufacturing and labour relations. The intention is to collectively produce a limited edition fashion line based on what is available from individual bales. The workshop space is animated by discussions led by Labour Behind the Label, a local activist group that supports garment workers' efforts worldwide to defend their rights.

<http://stephanie.syjuco.com>



¹¹ *YouTube Records*

JODI (NL)

JODI use and abuse the codes of the internet for their artistic material. For Craftivism, JODI take YouTube videos of people singing, etch them onto vinyl records, play them on a turntable and record them, then post the videos back to YouTube. The work is installed as a networked computer showing the growing collection of 'hacks' and the gramophone and vinyl disks produced thus far and over the duration of the exhibition. In this way, the contrast of analogue and digital media objects and processes is made explicit.

www.folksomy.net



¹² *Cultural_Capital*

glorious ninth (UK)
+ *Arnolfini Café Bar*
+ *Craftivism curators*

Drawing parallels between the use of bacteria and culture in traditional breadmaking and the self-organising and generative condition of network art, *Cultural_Capital* is a transformational artwork in which a sour-dough starter is created and grown in the gallery and cared for by the curators. Historically, a good sour-dough culture was very important to day-to-day living; it can be transported easily and can last for generations. *Cultural_Capital* is conceived as a touring artwork that accumulates bacteria and cultural capital from every venue in which it is installed. For Craftivism the sour-dough has been baked into bread by Arnolfini Café Bar during the exhibition and made into bruschettas for distribution at the exhibition preview.

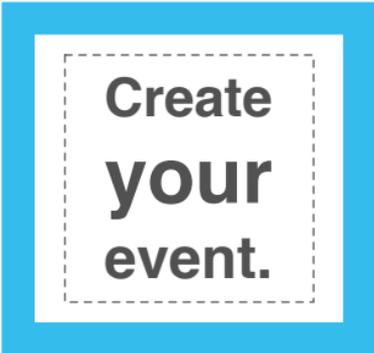
<http://cc.gloriousninth.net/curators.html>



**The complete *list*
of participants *is available*
online at www.craftivism.net**

unCraftivism is initiated by Rui Guerra (PT/ NL), an artist-programmer working in the area of software development and the organisation of DIY events. unCraftivism is self-organised and uncurated. The process is coordinated through a wiki, a collaborative writing tool to enable anyone with access to contribute or modify content. The outcomes are user-generated and thoroughly unpredictable. This open event takes place at Arnolfini on 12 and 13 December.

See www.craftivism.net for further details



**Create
your
event.**

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS AT ARNOLFINI AND AROUND THE CITY

Cultural_Capital

glorious ninth

Fri 11 Dec 6pm-8pm (Free)

Please join us for the preview of Craftivism, where Cultural_Capital sour-dough bruschettas will be distributed

The Rosehip Trade

Sat 12 Dec-Sun 14 Feb

Arnolfini café/bar (Free)

Bring your foraged rosehips to Arnolfini café/bar, to be used as ingredients, in exchange for a rosehip drink and recipe leaflet

unCraftivism

Sat 12 Dec 2pm-10pm

Sun 13 Dec 12pm-6pm

The Auditorium, Light Studio, Meeting Room, Café Bar and incidental spaces. (Free)

unCraftivism is an open event where you can present your own work. Your contribution will not be judged, or restricted by a theme. You organise and promote your own event, whether a performance, a talk, a meal, a song or an undefinable event. See www.craftivism.net

DIY Shades of Bristol

Sat 9 Jan 10.30am-1pm + 2pm-5pm (Free, Drop-in)

Artist Clare Thornton leads this eco-paint mixing day in The Light Studio at Arnolfini. Experiment with natural pigments and traditional paint recipes to create your own shade of Bristol. Cast your vote for 'The Shade of Bristol' by picking up a card in Gallery 2 and enter the 'Room Makeover Kit' competition. Non-toxic/zero VOC paint materials and eco-paint kit supplied by www.naturepaint.com

Salon Bench Knowle West

Animated by local knitters

Sat 9, 23 and 30 Jan 1pm, 2pm and 3pm (Free)

Non-knitters - come and learn in a one hour session with local knitters invited by the artist Trevor Pitt. Booking advisable

A Civic Inauguration of The Knitting Salon

Sat 16 Jan 10am-4pm (Free)

The Knitting Salon travels to the ground floor of The Mall Bristol, Broadmead Shopping Centre for its civic inauguration ahead of a UK tour. Share knitting skills and dialogue, facilitated by the artists Trevor Pitt + Kate Pemberton.

www.themall.co.uk

Design and construction of The Knitting Salon is produced in association with Craftspace

Food for Free Tree Planting Party

Sun 17 Jan 11am-1pm (Free)

Join Heath Bunting + Kayle Brandon for a tree planting party in Brandon Hill Park including a Food for Free walk; foraged drinks and snacks. Meet at the Great George Street entrance gates to Brandon Hill, off Park Street, at 10.50am
www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/content/Environment-Planning/Parks-and-open-spaces/parks/brandon-hill.en

British Wrestling Legends

Thur 21-Wed 27 Jan 12pm-6.30pm

Colston Hall (ground floor gallery)

(Free)

A small archive exhibition documenting Colston Hall's golden age of pro-wrestling including Mad Eli's collection with an opportunity to meet the artist

Rhiannon Chaloner (daily 3pm-6.30pm)
www.colstonhall.org

**Labour Behind the Label:
Ethical Fashion Workshop**

Wed 27 Jan 2pm (Free)

A workshop on ethical fashion conceived in relation to Stephanie Syjuco's Anti-Factory Bristol project
www.fashioninganethicalindustry.org

**Art in the City Lecture Series:
Kayle Brandon + Heath Bunting**

Thur 28 Jan 6pm (£5/£3 concs/
free UWE staff + students)

Kayle Brandon + Heath Bunting are Bristol-based members of the international collective irrational.org and collaborators since 2001. They have been described as artists and often adopt an unadorned, functionalist aesthetic. Brandon and Bunting talk about their practice followed by a discussion with Geoff Cox, Co-Curator of Craftivism

BSL Tour

Sat 30 Jan 2pm (Free)

A BSL tour of the Craftivism exhibition will be led by artist Matt Jenkins and interpreted by Sandra Barefoot

Making and Doing Seminar

Sat 6 Feb, 2pm - 5pm
(£7/£3 concs)

This seminar will reflect on the contemporary interest in craft and wider creative strategies that correspond to conditions of post-industrial labour and artisanship. The event asks: what drives this resurgent interest in craft processes and customisation; how oppositional are craftivist tactics; how much are they simply recuperated as free labour

and innovation? Presentations include Glenn Adamson, Head of Graduate Studies, V&A and Catherine Hemelryk, Co-Curator Extreme Crafts, CAC Vilnius and Curator, Bury St Edmunds Art Gallery

**Art in the City Lecture Series:
Trevor Pitt**

Weds 10 Feb 6pm (£5/£3 concs/
free UWE staff + students)

Trevor Pitt is a Birmingham-based artist-curator whose work emerges from the social and cultural context within which it is produced, and involving people as collaborators and active agents. Trevor will talk about his practice followed by a discussion with previous collaborators and Zoë Shearman, Co-Curator of Craftivism

**Labour Behind the Label:
Living Wages Workshop**

Fri 12 Feb 1pm (Free)

An interactive workshop on Living Wages for garment factory workers conceived in relation to Stephanie Syjuco's Anti-Factory Bristol project
www.labourbehindthelabel.org

Mash Up

Sat 13 February 12pm - 4pm
(Donation: £3 per child.

No booking required)

Our famous Mash Up is back, this time with a Craftivism focus on colour and cooking. Join artist Clare Thornton with her DIY Shades of Bristol colour mapping and The Cookery School at Bordeaux Quay for Food for Free cookery. Mash Up is for all ages and in particular parents/carers who want to explore art and ideas with their children. All children must be accompanied by an adult