

MEDIA RELEASE **Craft Scotland creates a global shopping destination for lovers of design-led craft.**

Curated online showcase at craftscotland.org reveals Scotland's craft treasures, allowing invited makers to sell direct from their studios.

From the Isle of Skye to Edinburgh's city studios, Scotland's craft secrets are now being shared by makers, designers and artists online. Responding to the growing global popularity of Scottish craft; the national agency for craft, Craft Scotland, have launched a new digital marketplace platform. The Craft Scotland Marketplace offers a selection of the best in contemporary, design-led craft sold directly from makers who live and work in Scotland.

Working with world-class designer/makers it is a carefully curated space to shop a diverse range of fashion and interiors straight from the makers' studio. Featuring jewellery, furniture, ceramics, textiles, fashion, homewares and accessories, the detailed product pages allow visitors to delve into the story behind each piece and immerse themselves in the ultimate craft experience. Every product/item has been designed and made with particular attention to detail and with an innate understanding of the material used.

Featured makers, include ceramicist Myer Halliday whose beautiful kitchenware are slip-cast using parian clay, a form of porcelain valued for its marble-like qualities. Heather McDermott's delicate and colourful jewellery pieces are inspired by the shoreline of her homeland in Skye and Catherine Aitken's bags and accessories work with heritage cloths of Scotland including Harris Tweed to create timeless classics for the modern urban adventurer.

Edinburgh-based fashion designer Niki Fulton said:

"I am delighted that Craft Scotland's curatorial team have selected my designs for the marketplace as Craft Scotland is a long established and highly respected organisation with a strong reach not only here in Scotland but around the world. It's exciting to see my work sitting alongside some of Scotland's most talented designers and makers. Craft Scotland have carved out an online 'go to' position for people looking for high quality contemporary Scottish craft, so I am very happy to be a part of this new venture."





The visual identity of the new Craft Scotland digital platform takes a well-considered and thoughtful approach to the presentation of contemporary craft from Scotland. The website is beautifully and unapologetically modern in its approach, setting a benchmark for makers. Plus, the bar for the new website's content is set high to fully showcase the very best of craft in-line with quality printed craft journals or lifestyle magazines, like global influential publications Kinfolk and Cereal.

Craftscotland.org has transformed the search for world-class craft for Scottish locals and visitors alike. Their new <u>Craft Directory</u> offers them the chance to peruse a curated showcase of the best in Scottish contemporary craft. The site's design approach is stripped back to the bare essentials from a colour point of view, letting the photography take centre stage. Setting a confident and elegant mood in which to appreciate, understand and be inspired by high-end crafts and craftsmanship.

Craft connoisseurs can discover destinations within Scotland where they can learn about and contemporary, design-led craft. Or pick up a new skill or visit an exhibition with their jampacked calendar of events, exhibitions and workshops showcasing the wealth of opportunities to engage with Scotland's makers. Tying in with Craft Scotland's aims is to promote high-quality contemporary craft practice locally, nationally and internationally.

Craft Scotland Director Fiona Logue said:

"We wanted to create a visually beautiful online shopping platform that is still simple to navigate and most importantly, showcases Scottish makers' work to the fullest. The new site will be visually compelling; a platform to share the amazing stories of makers, and an inspiring resource for the general craft audience and makers. The Craft Marketplace allows makers to sell their work on a curated online space that gives them access to a wider craftfocused audience. Through this they can generate a new source of revenue which helps to support a thriving creative community and, in turn, the local economy. We are delighted to be supported by Scottish Enterprise in this exciting new venture".

Accessories Designer Catherine Aitken said:

"It's wonderful to be part of the Craft Marketplace and be amongst such talented designer makers. I think this new online marketplace is a perfect platform to showcase my work which uses traditional heritage cloths, like Harris Tweed and waxed cottons, to produce a range of contemporary accessories for ladies and gents."

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Scottish Enterprise Director, David Smith, said: "Scottish Enterprise recognises the importance of the creative industries in ensuring Scotland's international profile. Craft Scotland plays a pivotal role in the promotion of the Scottish craft makers, many of whom have developed well deserved international reputations for their creative talents and quality premium products. Supporting Craft Scotland to maximise its impact on behalf of the makers through the development and launch of a new digital strategy and website will help to bring Scotland's makers to the attention of many more customers in the UK and beyond. The new site, with its detailed profiles of makers is a great platform for individual designers as well as useful focal point for the promotion of Scotland creative abilities."

To shop the collection visit: craftscotland.org/shop.

Connect with Craft Scotland online at: <u>Facebook</u> <u>Twitter</u> <u>Instagram</u>

For further information, interview or image requests please contact Owen O'Leary, Oh Really Creative on 07815 992658 or email <u>owen@ohreally.co.uk</u>

To view and download hi res images please visit: <u>https://app.box.com/s/7xtsk7yb6r3z6cbz3gxs4t79g4ufnddu</u>

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Notes to Editors

Craft Scotland

Craft Scotland is the national development agency for craft. We put makers at the heart of all we do, championing diverse and high-quality contemporary craft. We help people learn about, appreciate and buy craft, promoting the contribution of craft to Scotland's cultural, economic and social well-being. Through our exhibitions and events programmes, digital platforms and strategic partnerships, we provide leadership for the sector. We create opportunities for makers to develop their creative and business practice, and to exhibit and

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sell work in Scotland and beyond. We are a registered charity supported by Creative Scotland. <u>www.craftscotland.org</u>

Everyone

Everyone is a digital communication agency that works collaboratively to effectively tell brand stories and digitally transform businesses digital estates into more engaging offerings, whilst providing more powerful and robust platforms in which to manage daily digital business functions.

The agencies wealth of design and digital technology expertise has lead them to work with a wide variety of brands and organisations delivering a range of digital offerings, such as independent design-led businesses: Timorous Beasties, Niki Jones and Soar Running with fully integrated e-commerce platforms. Quality and well-established organisations such as Lateral City Apartments, Musselburgh Racecourses, The Hideaway Experience, Edinburgh International Science Festival and Mercat Tours utilising bespoke online booking and e-ticket engines to full effect, to name a few of the success stories that are made by Everyone. Everyone operates from Glasgow with 15 staff. https://www.weareeveryone.com/

Scottish Enterprise

Scottish Enterprise is Scotland's main economic development agency and a nondepartmental public body of the Scottish Government. We work with partners in the public and private sectors to identify and exploit the best opportunities to deliver a significant, lasting effect on the Scottish economy. <u>www.scottish-enterprise.com</u>

Creative Scotland

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. We enable people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. We distribute funding provided by the Scottish Government and the National Lottery. For further information about Creative Scotland please visit <u>www.creativescotland.com</u>. Follow us @creativescots and <u>www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland</u>

Featured makers include:





Aubin Stewart

Sophisticated yet playful jewellery designs of simple florals in acrylic, pearl and sterling silver.

https://www.craftscotland.org/craft-directory/makers/aubin-stewart

Beth Lamont

Inspired by clean form and the feel of ceramics, Beth's jewellery has splashes of colour added through rope or glazing to create truly statement pieces. <u>https://www.craftscotland.org/craft-directory/makers/beth-lamont</u>

HGR Jewellery

A lesson in modern alchemy, HGR Jewellery's The Grandeur That Was... collection consists of granulated jewellery inspired by the deconstruction of ancient ruins. <u>https://www.craftscotland.org/craft-directory/makers/hannah-ryan</u>

Heather McDermott

Unconventional size and structure, each piece is an expression of sculptural form and is designed to create a statement. The continually changing shoreline is her constant source of inspiration.

https://www.craftscotland.org/craft-directory/makers/heather-mcdermott

Joanne Thompson

Ancient chain maille patterns are a constant source of inspiration to create sculptural necklaces, bracelets and earrings which are voluminous yet light, tactile and extremely durable.

https://www.craftscotland.org/craft-directory/makers/joanne-thompson

Morna Darling

Using a subtle palette of blues and silver, Morna Darling creates wearable pieces with texture, pattern and unique combinations of materials. <u>https://www.craftscotland.org/craft-directory/makers/morna-darling</u>

Ruth Leslie

Wearable, precious jewellery that is simple yet unique, modern and bold. <u>https://www.craftscotland.org/craft-directory/makers/ruth-leslie</u>

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Scarlett Cohen French

Bold, confident jewellery, based on the idea that there is a fine line between order and chaos. <u>https://www.craftscotland.org/craft-directory/makers/scarlett-cohen-french</u>

Tracy Wilson

Explores pattern, form and texture to create jewellery inspired by sound waves and how sound is individual to everyone and everything. <u>https://www.craftscotland.org/craft-directory/makers/tracy-wilson</u>

Catherine Aitken

Works with heritage cloths of Scotland and uses intuitive design to create contemporary accessories for the modern urban adventurer. For those who want to connect beauty, purpose and provenance.

https://www.craftscotland.org/craft-directory/makers/catherine-aitken

Heather Shields

Striking yet sophisticated textiles for fashion and homeware needs with a strong graphic edge.

https://www.craftscotland.org/craft-directory/makers/heather-shields

Helen Ruth Scarves

Creates digitally printed silk and wool scarves, inspired by Scottish fairy tales and traditional folklore.

https://www.craftscotland.org/craft-directory/makers/helen-ruth-scarves

Jude Gove

Individually designed and handcrafted genuine leather accessories. Each purse and bag is cut and stitched by hand with an emphasis on simple and practical shapes and exquisite colour combinations.

https://www.craftscotland.org/craft-directory/makers/jude-gove

Laura Spring

Bold graphic prints combined with bright colours are transformed into beautifully crafted accessories.

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https://www.craftscotland.org/craft-directory/makers/laura-spring

Niki Fulton

Neckwear inspired by her experiences of urban and rural landscape. Designs have a feeling of rhythm, movement through careful placement and the interaction of her chosen colour palette.

https://www.craftscotland.org/craft-directory/makers/niki-fulton

Little Axe

Bringing the wild indoors, Little Axe creates bold decorative prints for functional objects and home accessories. https://www.craftscotland.org/craft-directory/makers/little-axe

Gavin Burnett

Explores the traditional glass cutting technique 'battuto' to create a highly textured, tactile surface on porcelain objects for the home. <u>https://www.craftscotland.org/craft-directory/makers/gavin-burnett</u>

Myer Halliday

Each ceramic piece carefully considers pattern, presentation and mark-making. Bold, graphic marks interact in contract with paper-like porcelaneous clay. <u>https://www.craftscotland.org/craft-directory/makers/myer-halliday</u>

HAME

Create objects with a quiet and honest character, celebrating the nature of wood. <u>https://www.craftscotland.org/craft-directory/makers/lewis-macleod</u>

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