



MEDIA RELEASE:

Craft Scotland and VAS showcase material mastery in wood by Scotland based makers

Three of Scotland's most exciting artists present their work in the third **Craft Scotland celebrates...** exhibition as part of ALIGHT at Royal Scottish Academy

In the third of a planned series celebrating craft mediums Craft Scotland is delighted once again to be partnering with Visual Arts Scotland (VAS) to celebrate contemporary woodworking through a presentation of multidisciplinary works from gifted Scotland based makers. This year Craft Scotland has chosen to explore wood through the diverse work of three makers: Charlotte Barker, Beth Legg and Naomi Mcintosh. Their work is presented alongside *hirta*, a modular structure that acts as a focus for discussion around materiality, design and making.

Challenging the common perceptions of wood, this year the **Craft Scotland celebrates... wood** showcase highlights the versatility of wood as a craft material, and the diversity of applications it can be adapted to. Selected by the VAS committee and representatives of Craft Scotland, the three invited artists will form the starting point for a wider celebration of the diverse discipline of contemporary woodworking throughout the ALIGHT exhibition.

A sense of movement is offered by Charlotte Barker, the wood's natural texture contrasting with the controlled markings of her ceramic vessels. Beth Legg's objects and jewellery are rooted in the poetic nature of metal, wood and stone and her fascination with hinterlands while Naomi Mcintosh's designs explore volume, pattern and movement.

Speaking ahead of the exhibition opening Craft Scotland Director Irene Kernan said: "Our media-specific showcases were born out of Craft Scotland and Visual Arts Scotland's mutual ambition to exhibit high-quality craft, alongside works of fine art, in a venue fitting of its stature. This year we explore how three different makers use wood in very different ways, differing in scale from the architectural to the sculptural, to the precious. Alvar Aalto, renowned modernist architect and designer, described wood as a 'form-inspiring, deeply human material'. The artists selected continue to test the tactile, sensory and expressive

Making Connections, Creating Opportunities

Craft Scotland, 15 Coburg Street, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6ET

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qualities of the material within contemporary craft practice, using both deeply traditional techniques and modern digital technologies.”

Clive Gillman, Director of Creative Industries said: “Working with wood has been a source of inspiration for centuries, so it’s no surprise to see that it still forms a major part of the work of Scotland’s makers. Our interdependency with this most beautiful organic material manifests itself in many ways, but sees its pinnacle in its use as a craft material, lending its warmth and familiar texture to new and exciting forms in the hands of Scotland’s contemporary craftspeople.”

This striking showcase forms part of the annual Visual Arts Scotland (VAS) exhibition. For 2019, VAS present ALIGHT, at the National Galleries of Scotland. The exhibition will show the furthest extremes of contemporary art practice, from craft to digital and everything in between. In conjunction with the media showcase Craft Scotland will also make an award of £500 to one artist working in wood from the Open Submission.

Listing Information

Craft Scotland celebrates... wood

ALIGHT, presented by Visual Arts Scotland at the National Galleries of Scotland

26 January - 22 February 2019

Open Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sunday 12 noon - 5pm

Royal Scottish Academy, The Mound, Edinburgh EH2 2EL

www.visualartsscotland.org

For further information on Craft Scotland celebrates glass please contact Owen O'Leary on 07815 992658 or email owen@ohreally.co.uk

View and download hi res images of the artworks here:

<https://app.box.com/s/t47fg6jnu4vgm6yvsvyom7g7lcotouhs1>

ENDS>

Notes to Editors:

The artists being showcased by Craft Scotland are:

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Charlotte Barker

Charlotte Barker is a sculptor making primarily large-scale work in clay with more recent installations incorporating wood. Charlotte is intrigued by the irregularities of the handmade object and the creative territory that lies between impulse, intuition and technical skill. Charlotte plays with the viewer's perception of material qualities by experimenting with the surface and texture of ceramics and wood. Recent work explores the painterly properties of the surface of ceramic vessels, contrasted with the natural markings of the newly sawmilled wood benches that elevate them.

Charlotte graduated with an MA Ceramics from the Royal College of Art (RCA) in 2015 and the Glasgow School of Art in 2010. While at RCA she was awarded the Eduardo Paolozzi Travel Bursary for a research trip to Ghana and Togo. Recent exhibitions include The Pioneers, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, and Fresh, British Ceramics Biennial, Stoke-on-Trent.
www.charlottebarker.co.uk

Beth Legg

The remote environment Beth Legg comes from on the far north coast of Scotland has strongly influenced both the work she produces and the materials she uses. Her work is rooted in a delight in the poetic nature of metal, wood and stone; a fascination with both their surface and content.

She has always been fascinated by the hinterlands and quiet edges of places and it is the beautifully bleak and elemental nature of the Scottish landscape that Beth aims to be reflected in her jewellery.

Beth's career has included periods where drawing, writing, and curating have dominated but her jewellery making has always remained constant. She works from her studio in the Trossachs National Park. Her work is currently on display at the Scottish Design Galleries, V&A Dundee and at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery. www.bethlegg.com

Naomi McIntosh

Naomi creates works that explore a range of scales from jewellery to sculptural objects and installations. By using planes and lines, forms are suggested, capturing volumes, transforming 2D surfaces into 3D objects. With precise geometry the pieces explore the relationship between the body and objects and how volumes, patterns, planes and forms are seen.

The *hirta* structure was designed by Naomi and realised in collaboration with architect Bruce Brebner and designers Sam Booth and Maggie Savage of Echo Living. Hirta, who commissioned the structure, promote inter-disciplinary collaborative projects. The structure aims to capture the public interest and define the space for displaying work, and becomes the location and focus for conversations about design. Integrated display units within the structure will house Naomi's jewellery, also constructed in wood. www.naomimcintosh.com

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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 sell work in Scotland and beyond. We are a registered charity supported by Creative Scotland.

www.craftscotland.org

Visual Arts Scotland

Visual Arts Scotland is a leading platform for national and international contemporary fine and applied artists with a membership of over 400 practising artists. Originally an organisation for women artists, the society since the 1980s has championed craft makers, designers and applied arts practitioners. Works by notable artists have included historically Joan Eardley, Barbara Hepworth, Elizabeth Frink and Lucie Rie, and more recently they have been proud to exhibit some of Scotland's biggest rising stars including Rachel MacLean who represented Scotland in the 2017 Venice Biennale.

Their relationship with contemporary fine art practice is at the heart of Visual Arts Scotland's mission today. Their annual exhibition offers the opportunity for emerging and established practitioners to showcase new and unseen work. For more information visit www.visualartsscotland.org

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 www.creativescotland.com. Follow us @creativescots and www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland

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