



Made in the Middle (13 July - 2 September)

One of the largest national contemporary crafts exhibitions to take place in the UK opens at **Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum** on **Friday 13 July 2007**.

Made in the Middle features the work of 37 designer makers based in the West Midlands, and is a partnership with Craftspace and Rugby Art Gallery & Museum. It examines the journey of craft from studio to the home and how we can use craft and handmade objects to personalise our own spaces. The show features over a hundred pieces of work, including ceramics, glass, jewellery, metalwork, textiles and furniture from both recent graduates and makers with international reputations. Visitors can explore how a craft object is made, and the skills and ideas that lie behind each piece of work. The exhibition is supported by video and sound recordings, and includes a number of works you can touch.

Made in the Middle not only reveals contemporary working practices, but also provides a great opportunity to purchase and commission work from some of the best designer makers in the region.

There is a family activity guide for visitors and the exhibition will be accompanied by a series of events including talks by Made in the Middle exhibitors John Moore and Melanie Tomlinson. There will also be a felt making workshop for adults led by maker Deborah Roberts, whose work can be seen in the exhibition. Please call 01926 742700 or pick up a leaflet at the Art Gallery & Museum for further details.

The private view will take place on **Thursday 12 July at 6pm**

- Ends -

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Craftspace: Lisa Falaschi on 0121 608 6668 email L.Falaschi@craftspace.co.uk or Andy Horn on 0121 608 6668

Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum: Chloe Johnson, Curatorial Officer on 01926 742702 or Emma Lewis Publicity Officer on 01926 742709.

LEAMINGTON SPA ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

Royal Pump Rooms . The Parade . Leamington Spa . CV32 4AA . Tel : 01926 742700 . Fax : 01926 742705 . Email : prooms@warwickdc.gov.uk

Open: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10.30am – 5pm, Thursday 1.30pm – 8pm, Sunday 11am – 4pm, Monday closed (except Bank Holidays)

Admission free.

NOTES TO EDITOR:

Craftspace is working to increase opportunities for makers as well as access to and understanding of contemporary crafts for all. Craftspace is committed to access, quality and innovation in design, making and presentation and the widest cultural contexts for the showing and development of crafts. www.craftspace-touring.co.uk

Craftspace is celebrating **21 years** of working in partnership with makers, audiences and other partners to push boundaries and perceptions around crafts practice, presentation and learning.

Rugby Art Gallery and Museum: Opened in Spring 2000, Rugby Art Gallery and Museum is owned and run by Rugby Borough Council. Its exhibition programme and collections focus on developing the artistic and heritage provision for the Borough. In addition its key aims are to create a lively programme of displays and exhibitions, to encourage visitors to participate as well as observe, and to promote the Art Gallery and Museum as a place for lifelong learning. www.ragm.org.uk

Made in the Middle launches every three years to offer visitors a glimpse of the changing dynamics of craft in the West Midlands. 'Made in the Middle' is open to any maker practicing within the West Midlands or who is connected to the region through teaching and education but is working in other regions.

TOUR SCHEDULE

14 Nov 2006 to 14 Jan 2007 - Rugby Art Gallery & Museum, Rugby
27 Jan to 14 Mar 2007 – MAC, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham.
24 Mar to 5 May 2007 - Worcester Museum and Art Gallery, Worcester.
18 May to 29 Jun 2007 - Artworks-mk, Milton Keynes.
13 Jul to 2 Sept 2007 - Leamington Spa Art Gallery and Museum, Leamington Spa.
15 Sept to 11 Nov 2007 - Shire Hall, Stafford.
24 Nov to 4 Jan 2008 - Bilston Craft Gallery, Wolverhampton.
18 Jan 2008 to 29 Feb 2008 – Brewery Arts, Cirencester
15 Mar to 26 Apr 2008 - The Herbert, Coventry.
10 May to 21 Jun 2008 -Qube Gallery, Oswestry.

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