

BURY ST EDMUNDS art gallery

september to december 2009

T. 01284 762081 www.burystedmundsartgallery.org



EXHIBITION

friday ,11 september –
saturday, 31 october

Making and Mending

Stephen Dixon
Daniel Edelstyn
Jennifer Hollingdale
Hilary Jack
Kai-Oi Jay Yung
Celia Pym
Freddie Robins
Michael Swaine
Alison Welsh

This exhibition looks at contemporary artists who are reworking old-fashioned concepts of thrift and domestic economy that were exemplified by the World War II initiative “Make Do and Mend”. Not only do these artists “make”, but they also “mend” and are concerned with aspects of mending in its widest sense, often a strong sense of social engagement and responsibility. Underlying many of the works is the notion of mending as an act of healing and reparation and a sense of giving back to communities.



Michael Swaine's *Free Mending Library* project, San Francisco, 2005

Artists like **Jennifer Hollingdale** and **Celia Pym** work in textiles, the logical and historic site for mending. However, other artists such as **Kai-Oi Jay Yung** and **Michael Swaine** come from very different disciplines and are drawn to mending through their concern with broader issues such as the rejection of consumerism, sustainability and human impact on the environment and strategies for coping with the recession. The concept of “making do” is also seen in a very different context in **Stephen Dixon's** ceramics, which explore the economic and social pressures of British colonists in Australia.

Dixon's other work is a collaborative piece with textile artist **Alison Welsh**. Collaboration is also evident in **Celia Pym's** and **Freddie Robins' *The Imperfect*** and is an important underlying concept for mending communities, as seen in the artists' co-operatives illustrated in **Daniel Edelstyn's** film suite, *Subverting the City*.

The exhibition will include images, objects, film, and performance. It will be accompanied by an extensive programme of events and both formal and drop-in workshops, giving local textile groups who “make” an opportunity to connect to a wider audience.

Join in Making and Mending events throughout September and October. Some of these have been devised by artists in the exhibition, others are a showcase for local groups. Many events are free, but some are ticketed for reasons of space – see pages 8 – 9 for more details.



Hilary Jack, *Repaired Maxply Tennis Racket*, 2008

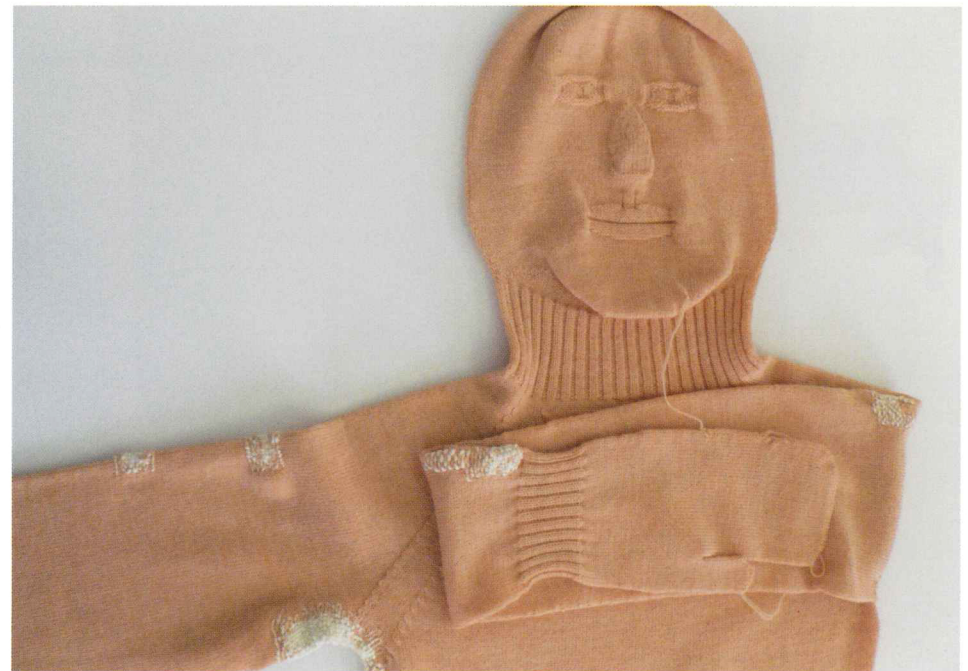
Stephen Dixon and Alison Welsh's work was commissioned as part of *Mechanical Drawing: The Schiffli Project*, with the support of Arts Council England and Manchester Metropolitan University.

Daniel Edelstyn's work was made for Fulcrum TV & Optimistic Productions as an original commission for Channel 4 Television.

The Gallery and Kai-Oi Jay Yung would like to thank FACT, Liverpool for their assistance, and for commissioning the original project.

Freddie Robins and Celia Pym acknowledge the support of The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

The Gallery would also like to thank Twisted Thread and Andrew Galli for permission to show the Michael Swaine film; and Sabrina Gschwandtner and A&C Black for permission to quote from *The Journal of Modern Craft*.



Freddie Robin & Celia Pym, *The Imperfect*, 2008

EVENTS

Bury St Edmunds Art Gallery is an official ARTS AWARD WELCOME organisation and through this scheme provides opportunities to young people aged between 11 and 25. To find out more about getting involved in the Arts Award scheme visit www.artsward.org.uk



MAKING AND MENDING EVENTS

Saturday, 19 September
REGION 7 (NORFOLK/ SUFFOLK) OF THE INTERNATIONAL FELTMAKERS' ASSOCIATION
10.30am to 5 pm FREE
Members of the International Feltmakers' Association will demonstrate this ancient art, transforming sheeps' wool directly into beautiful and durable fabrics in a process taking less than an hour. Using dyed merino wool tops, they will show you how to make some of the beautiful felted objects on display. Take the opportunity to have a go and make your own felt baubles or beads; maybe think about taking the whole process further and joining

the group to enjoy some of the workshops and meetings. *Drop-in demonstration*



Azul/Heidi McEvoy-Swift & Jacquie Campbell, *Funky Yellow*

Thursday, 24 September
IN CONVERSATION: CELIA PYM AND FREDDIE ROBINS
7pm
Members £3, non-members £5
Is perfection important? Renowned textile artist **Freddie Robins** says "I am a real perfectionist" and, yet, she worked with fellow artist **Celia Pym** to create *The Imperfect* which shows the mends very clearly. Join Freddie and Celia for a lively discussion on the importance of perfection in their art and how it relates to mending.



Freddie Robins

Friday, 25 September
EAST LONDON CRAFT GUERRILLAS LAUNCH EVENING, *venue to be announced* FREE
Ex-Bury St Edmunds textile

artist **Louise Batten** brings her East London crew with her to demonstrate how you too can persuade strangers in pubs to get crafting. There is a charge for the Craft Guerrillas' kits.

Thursday, 1 & Friday, 2 October
MEND AT BURY ST EDMUNDS: CELIA PYM
FREE

Mend is an ongoing project by **Celia Pym** to find and repair knitted or woven holes around the UK and abroad and document the repair in the *Catalogue of Holes* (on display in the exhibition). Holes so far have come from London, Paris, Orkney, Czech Republic, Boston (USA), Tokyo. All holey items lent for repair will be returned. Please come to the Gallery with any items which need fixing; Celia will be in the Gallery to consult on your holes and mend them.



Celia Pym, *Mend*, 2007 and ongoing

Saturday, 3 October
OUT OF THE FOLD
Drop-in Demonstration
10.30am – 5pm FREE
This group was formed by ex-students of the City and Guilds Embroidery courses

and meet on a regular basis to continue to develop new projects and to stretch their skills. They will be demonstrating a wide variety of stitch techniques.



Karen Frost

Sunday, 4 October
MONOPRINT TEXTILES WORKSHOP: SARAH WILSON
10.30am – 4.30pm
Members £35, non-members £40
Learn how to create unique prints without a press with Norfolk-based artist, **Sarah Wilson**. The workshop will focus on incorporating and experimenting with textile stencils which produce a range of textures and effects. Suitable for all abilities. All materials provided. Please wear old clothes and/or bring an apron.



Sarah Wilson, *Ragged Nightgown*

Friday, 9 & Saturday, 10 October
SOCK EXCHANGE:
KAI-OI JAY YUNG
Drop-in session
Friday 10.30am – 4.30pm and
Saturday 10.30am – 2.30pm
FREE

Kai-Oi Jay Yung invites you to join her as she customises and embellishes unloved and unwanted socks in her Sock Exchange Wigwam. Donated socks welcome but not essential. This follows on from the success of the project devised for Fact Liverpool's *Climate for Change* programme earlier this year.



Kai-Oi Jay Yung, *Socking* [still from DVD], 2009

Wednesday, 14 October
EXHIBITION TOUR
1pm FREE
Join Curator, **Liz Cooper**, for an informal tour and discussion of the *Making and Mending* exhibition.

Saturday, 17 October
KNIT-IN: BURY ST EDMUNDS STITCH 'N' BITCH
Drop-in session
11.00 am – 2.00 pm FREE
It's National Knitting Week and the local **Stitch 'n' Bitch** group will be in the Gallery

knitting. Please bring your own knitting and join them.

Wednesday, 28 October
PLASTIC BAG AMNESTY:
HILARY JACK
Drop-in session
11am – 4pm FREE
Manchester-based **Hilary Jack** will be beautifying one-use "corner shop" bags and asking us to consider their re-use. All craft techniques welcome: stitch, knit or crochet.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT AN EXHIBITION

Wednesday, 4 November
3pm FREE

During the changeover between exhibitions the Gallery and Craft Shop remain open, enabling visitors to witness the behind the scenes work of carefully dismantling exhibitions and constructing new spaces and experiences. During this metamorphosis, there is a fleeting moment when the space has potential to be anything. In *A Conversation About An Exhibition* invited curators share their ideas for everything from realistic exhibitions to implausible pipe dreams, and reveal the practical and theoretical implications of exhibition-making.