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Collect 2012 at the Saatchi Gallery

The London Magazine speaks to Crafts Council expert Daniella Wells about who to look out for at its fantastic fair

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The London Magazine : Review of Collect 2012

by TLM Staff May 10 2012

Etsuko Tashima is highly regarded in her native Japan and this will be the first time that she will exhibit at Collect. The Japanese artists are always incredibly popular with the Collect audience and I am sure that Etsuko will be no exception. Her pieces that combine glass and glazed ceramic are very unusual and although nearly all influenced by flora and fauna this piece has an almost industrial look due to the robust and perfectly symmetrical forms.

Stephen Dixon is an important figure in ceramics, he is Professor at Manchester School of Art, he was recently awarded the inaugural V&A ceramics studio residency and he is also on the Board of Trustees at the Crafts Council. This piece, 'Restoration 1 (Aung San Suu Kyi)' is part of a new body of work on prisoners of conscience, looking at three Nobel Peace prize recipients who have been unable to attend the awards ceremony due to imprisonment for their beliefs. This elegant bust of Aung San Suu Kyi seems to capture her personality and its strong socio-political message is made powerful by the fractured yet strong look of the piece.

Mirjam Hiller attended the College for Goldsmithing in Pforzheim in Germany from 1999 to 2002 and then later at Pforzheim's School of Design before setting up her own atelier in Potsdam, Germany in 2008. This striking powder coated copper piece of jewellery looks like half coral, half crab. Hiller has a broad aesthetic but all of her work takes its inspiration from plants or organisms and all pieces made from the bending and folding of sheet steel or brass. This self-imposed limitation whilst challenging is also a source of inspiration to her.

Sarah Myerscough is bringing a new artist to COLLECT this year - French wood turner, **Pascal Oudet**. I am looking forward to seeing his finely turned wood pieces that due to their extreme delicacy have the appearance of lace. Oudet lives in the French Alps and the beauty of the natural elements is clearly an inspiration to him. He chooses wood that has been affected by weather elements, which bring out differing colours and textures, emphasizing both the organic nature and inner structure of his chosen medium.

Michael Rowe is a very important figure in the contemporary craft both in the UK and internationally. He has exhibited in shows and has work in private and public collections across the world. Rowe continually questions the aesthetic language of silver and our notions of what might be considered ornament. This playful piece, 'Wry Vita', makes us take a second glance as what seems to be a Ryvita packet is made of brass sheet. It is part of a series that looks at the geometry and proportions of the rectangular containers used in packaging.

Louise Gardiner is on a mission to change how we think of embroidery and has been creating pieces using her own unique style for nearly 20 years. Louise is one of ten artists who have created installations for the Project Space area of Collect. She has created a new five-piece wall based narrative called 'You Blow me Away' that charts the life of a tumbleweed. Her pieces are very intricate and for 'You Blow me Away' she has used black PVC, neon threads and overlaid stitching to create a very textural, colourful and dynamic piece.

The Crafts Council commissioned a film of Louise at work on this piece that you can see [here](#)

COLLECT: the international art fair for contemporary objects runs from the 11-14 May at the Saatchi Gallery, SW3, www.collect2012.org.uk

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