

## Press Release

27 July 2010

### Textile maker Gillian Royal awarded a place on new Crafts Council 'Hothouse' scheme

Gillian Royal, a textile maker who creates fine felt vessels, has been awarded a place on the first Crafts Council Collective 'Hothouse' scheme. The programme provides emerging makers with focused, intensive business skills and creative development, complimented with 1:1 mentoring from established makers and professional coaches. The programme is aimed at emerging makers who intend for their practice to be a long term main occupation and who show promise and the ability to become successful in the crafts sector.

Gillian's seamless felt vessels are hand crafted from luxury natural fibres, including merino wool, and are often embellished with embroidery. Smooth, fine and light weight, they are available in a range of styles, combining colour, pattern and texture, making them ideal for contemporary interiors.

Gillian Hothouse selection panel to the quality of her work and the passion and commitment she showed about her practice. The panel were impressed with Gillian's advanced manipulation of felt to create self supporting textile structures, showing a high level of control and finish with her medium.



The first 'Hothouse' pilot scheme is delivered by the Crafts Council in partnership with the University of Creative Arts, the Crafts Study Centre, Farnham Maltings and the New Ashgate Gallery, all based in Farnham, Surrey. During the summer and autumn of 2010, Gillian will develop her practice, with the help of the partners and mentors, and will exhibit her work at the New Ashgate Gallery from 9<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2010, along with nine other emerging makers selected for Hothouse.

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For further press images, information and prices please contact Gillian Royal

#### Notes to Editors

- Gillian graduated from Coventry University in 2009, with a first class honours degree in Applied Arts, she lives and works in Wellesbourne near Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire.
- Forthcoming exhibitions  
MADE10 - Brighton's Design and Craft Fair MADE10 - from 19th - 21st November.  
British Contemporary Crafts 2010 Chiswick Town Hall London from 26th - 28th November.  
Society of Designer Craftsmen, Annual exhibition at the Mall Galleries, London
- Hothouse forms one strand of Crafts Council Collective, the Crafts Council's Professional Development programme for makers. Collective offers a varied and flexible

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range of opportunities to makers and aims to enable makers to take control of their own professional development throughout their careers.

- **Crafts Council** : Beatrice Mayfield, (Maker Development Manager), Madeleine Furness (Maker Development Officer)  
**Farnham Cohort Partners:** Philip Ely (Associate Dean & Head of Business & Community School at UCA Farnham), Gavin Stride (CEO, Farnham Maltings), Professor Simon Olding ( Director, Crafts Study Centre and Joanne McCarthy (Director, New Ashgate Gallery).
- The Crafts Council's goal is to make the UK the best place to make, see, collect and learn about contemporary craft. Hothouse aims are as follows:-
  - To develop a national scheme which profiles and supports 40 of the most promising new makers each year.
  - To develop a programme that places business acumen and creative development on an equal footing.
  - To provide opportunities for emerging makers to test directions and develop options around the development of their practice.
  - To add Crafts Council value and support to the programmes of other Continuing Professional Development (CPD) agencies.
  - To profile models of practice and career routes to undergraduates.
  - To share good models of practices across agencies.
- For further information about Gillian Royal visit [www.pantoufles.co.uk](http://www.pantoufles.co.uk)  
For further information about the Crafts Council visit <http://www.craftscouncil.org.uk/professional-development/maker-development/crafts-council-collective/hothouse/>
- The Crafts Council is supported by Arts Council England.



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