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## “MODERN MAKERS” CREATE A UNIQUE DIALOGUE WITH CHATSWORTH’S HISTORIC COLLECTION IN SOTHEBY’S NEW SELLING EXHIBITION OF 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY APPLIED ARTS

18<sup>th</sup> September – 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2013



Joseph Walsh, *Enignum Canopy Bed*, ash, 2013

**Sotheby's London, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013** - From tomorrow, at Chatsworth in Derbyshire - ancestral home of the Dukes of Devonshire - Sotheby's will host *Modern Makers*, a unique selling exhibition of contemporary craft by some of the very best practitioners working internationally today. Taking the Devonshire Collection as their source of inspiration, some 16 leading makers have created specially commissioned works including furniture, textiles, ceramics and metalwork, which are rich with context and meaning. Visitors to the exhibition will make their way through Chatsworth's historic rooms to The New Gallery, where highlights include: Ptolemy Mann's shimmering textile-hung corridor; Joseph Walsh's spectacular ash bed; Julian Stair's and Felicity Aylieff's retake on the China Closet and Junko Mori's black steel chandelier, all brought together by curator Sarah Griffin in a thought-provoking show. In its scope and interpretation, *Modern Makers*, which runs from 18<sup>th</sup> September to 23<sup>rd</sup> December, is intended to challenge perceptions of conventional crafts practice.

*Modern Makers' curator Sarah Griffin commented: "This is an exhibition of work by artists who either feature in the Devonshire's collection of contemporary applied arts, or whose work, in material, technique, subject matter or function, corresponds with aspects of the historical collections. Visits to the house with many of the makers has yielded new insights into the collecting achievements of the Devonshires and their multi-faceted interests and passions, and an unprecedented opportunity for innovation and inspiration amongst the artists. The work in the exhibition, in its seriousness, content, and skill in the making, can be claimed simultaneously by the fine art, design and craft worlds. These makers are masters of their chosen materials and techniques - which partly define their work, but equally bring content, depth of reference, well-thought out and considered design to each work."*

**SOME OF THE ARTISTS FEATURED IN MODERN MAKERS:**



**JOSEPH WALSH** (b.1979) founded his studio and workshop in 1999 in Co. Cork, Ireland. He is a self-taught designer maker, realising one-of-a-kind and limited edition pieces in wood. His works can be found in many important international museum and private collections including Chatsworth, the National Museum of Ireland, the Embassy of Japan, Ireland and *Mint Museum of Craft + Design*, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA. Joseph Walsh has created his dramatic curved Enignum Canopy bed in ash wood for the exhibition.

**JULIAN STAIR** (b.1955) is an English potter, who works in a range of materials, from fine glazed porcelain to rough engineering brick clays. His groups of ceramics vary in scale from cups and teapots to monumental jars over 6 feet tall and weighing half a ton. Julian has exhibited internationally over the last 30 years and has work in over 20 collections, including the V&A, British Council, American Museum of Art & Design, Hong Kong Museum of Art and the Boymans Museum, Netherlands. Julian, whose work is featured in the Devonshire Collection, has created a ceramics installation inspired by the Chatsworth China Closet.



**PTOLEMY MANN** (b.1972) is a textile artist, who weaves colour-soaked, linear wall panels using the ikat technique. Drawing on the colour theories of the Bauhaus and artists such as Anni Albers and Charles and Ray Eames, she also finds inspiration in photography and the landscape. Ptolemy has created textiles for London Transport, Christopher Farr, Cunard and Hilton Hotel Group. She is a regular exhibitor at the Chelsea Craft Fair, ORIGIN, 100% Design, SOFA New York and Chicago and is a selected maker on the Crafts Council register. Ptolemy's nine *Chromatogenous* panels evoke the rich textile

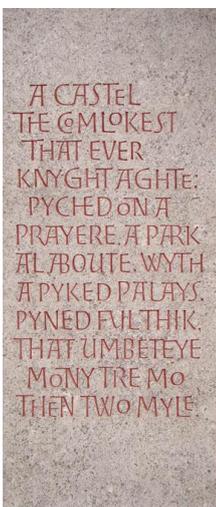
archives at Chatsworth.

**JUNKO MORI** (b.1974) is a Japanese metalworker and graduate of Camberwell College of Arts in London, who creates hand-forged works which are both organic and minimalist. Her works are in the collections of the V&A and Honolulu Museum of Art in Hawaii. Junko's black steel chandelier will be one of the highlights of the show. A stag's head chandelier hanging outside the New Gallery was the inspiration for *Plants Exotica*, her large scale organic work in steel for *Modern Makers*.



**FELICITY AYLIEFF** (b.1954) is internationally renowned for her large scale ceramics. A graduate of the Royal College of Art, she was the first Ceramics and Glass student at the RCA to be awarded an MPhil research degree. Working from her studio in Bath for more than three decades, she has recently developed a collaboration with manufactories in Jingdezhen, China where she makes monumental pots. Her work is held in numerous international private and public collections including the V&A. Felicity's two blue and white lidded vases, and two groups of five pots, echo the oriental porcelain in the Devonshire Collection.

**MAX LAMB** (b.1980), native of St. Austell in Cornwall and a graduate of the Royal College of Art, was named "Designer of the Future" at Design Miami/Basel in 2008. Lamb revels in experimenting with process and materials. He laboriously chisels, buries, grows and smelts materials into rugged and bold forms, casting in sand, cutting furniture from solid rock, hand-carving from polystyrene and casting in bronze. For *Modern Makers* Max has turned a series of multi-functional columns from a felled Chatsworth yew tree.



**GARY BREEZE** (b.1966) studied Graphic Design at Norwich School of Art followed by an apprenticeship with the letter-carver and sculptor David Holgate. Gary has always exhibited widely and was awarded the first Jerwood Contemporary Makers prize in 2008. Looking at local texts, he discovered that the legend of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight was written in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century in a dialect local to Chatsworth. His sundial can be seen in the kitchen garden.

**GARETH NEAL'S** (b.1974) work combines traditional processes with digital manufacture in designs that intuitively engage with the tacit qualities embedded within his materials and explore the notion of "hand-made". His work has been sold and exhibited internationally, including at the V&A and the Museum of Art & Design in New York. Gareth also designs for industry, working with companies as diverse as shoe and motor manufacturers.



**SU BLACKWELL** (b.1975) is a Derbyshire native, who works predominantly within the realm of paper. For *Modern Makers* she immersed herself in books about orchids in the Chatsworth library and became inspired by the 19<sup>th</sup> Century race between Kew and the 6<sup>th</sup> Duke to grow a particular flower. Already familiar with Chatsworth, she has previously completed a private commission about the village of Edensor on the estate. Sue completed an MA in textiles at the Royal College of Art and her work has been displayed in both solo and group exhibitions throughout America and the UK.

**ZOÉ OUVRIER** (B.1975) was born in Montpellier, France and studied at the



Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Ouvrier's work uses traditional methods in book and scroll making to engrave natural materials. With nature as her inspiration, she creates unique pieces from carved wood as well as paintings and lace-adorned decorative screens.

**SAM ORLANDO MILLER** (b.1966) spent his early life in the family silversmith's workshop in London, where he acquired an exceptional level of skill. In 1987 he qualified



with an honours degree in Fine Art from Falmouth School of Art and in 1989 he set up a commercial workshop, hired a team and began making objects and interiors. He was swiftly commissioned by UK and international clients for interior design projects, furniture and installations. Working by private commission and living between London and Italy, Miller's work is held in private collections worldwide. Sam has created two extraordinary "three-dimensional" mirrors for the exhibition.

**DEBORAH THOMAS'** (b. 1956) glasswork chandeliers can be seen in buildings throughout the world. Based in Derbyshire, her work has been featured in two Sotheby's exhibitions (New York, *The Unexpected Too*, 2002 and London, *Waste to Taste*, 2003) and shown at the Serpentine Gallery and the V&A. For *Modern Makers*, Deborah looked at the evolving content of the Bedchamber and made her wonderfully theatrical jewel-like light sculpture in response.



**Notes to Editors:**

- The works included in the *Modern Makers* exhibition are available for purchase by private sale.
- How to get to Chatsworth, Derbyshire, DE45 1PP: Turn off the M1 at junction 29 towards Chesterfield and follow the brown signs for Chatsworth.

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