



CRAFTING *a difference*

PRESS RELEASE

CRAFTING A DIFFERENCE
at the
ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE

Part of LONDON CRAFT WEEK

4 – 10 October

This exhibition, presented by Crafting a Difference, will celebrate outstanding international contemporary craft set within the magnificent architecture, décor and fabric of the Argentine Ambassador's Official Residence, in the frame of London Craft Week 2021, with support from the Crafts Council, QEST, Loewe Foundation, Michelangelo Foundation, Cockpit Arts, Design Centre Chelsea Harbour and Artegian Design.

Fifteen years ago, in 2006, the Argentine Ambassador's Residence was the first Embassy to open its doors to the public for London Open House. With this show, the Argentine Embassy would once again become a pioneer as the first Ambassador's Residence to be part of London Craft Week, offering its formidable interior as a backdrop to showcase the best international contemporary craft.

The exhibition is conceived by the Argentine-London based gallery owner, Andrea Harari, who has collaborated and curated exhibitions at the Embassy for London Open City amongst others. For this exhibition, Andrea teamed with Crafting a Difference - five established London-based contemporary craft galleries - Cavaliero Finn, jaggedart, MADEINBRITANY, Ting-Ting Gallery and Vessel Gallery - who have forged an unprecedented relationship in 2020 to bring together an ambitious diverse programme of events showcasing the highest international quality contemporary craft. The exhibition at the Residence is curated by Andrea Harari in collaboration with Brian Kennedy.

Crafting a Difference at the Argentine Ambassador's Residence will present more than 200 works in ceramics, wood, glass, metals, textiles, and paper by over 30 artists carefully selected to inhabit this historic house designed by Thomas Cubitt. The Residence was acquired in 1936 with its furniture and paintings. Beautiful and precious objects, lamps, works of art, tapestries, mirrors, all give character, grandiosity, and an allure of a time gone by.

The elegant and formal style of the house will be complemented by contemporary objects and works of art offering an inspiring dialogue with the fabric of the building. The ground floor, with its ample corridors, reception rooms and formal dining room will offer a spectacular setting for this stimulating conversation.

On the first floor, the impressive ball room and reception rooms will host interventions and site-specific installations presented by each gallery with jaggedart presenting a 'congregation' by Denise de Cordova and a tea installation by Charlotte Hodes in the Dining room. MADEINBRITALLY will present an installation by Andrea Salvatori and Vessel Gallery will present installations by Chris Day and Amy Cushing. Cavaliero Finn will be creating a monochrome tableau exploring pattern and form with a new collection by Björk Haraldsdóttir. Ting Ying Gallery will show work from Carol McNicoll, Su Xianzhong, Jeffrey Mitchell, Zhao Jinya and Vezzini & Chen.

Crafting a Difference at the Argentine Ambassador's Residence will offer for the first time ever in London a unique ambience for contemporary craft, an opportunity to enjoy and appreciate craftsmanship from the past and from today's most talented international makers.

Booking is essential at [craftingadifference.com](https://www.craftingadifference.com)

NOTES

ABOUT CRAFTING A DIFFERENCE

CRAFTING A DIFFERENCE is a group formed by five established London-based contemporary craft and visual arts galleries - Cavaliero Finn, jaggedart, MADEINBRITALLY, Ting-Ting Gallery and Vessel Gallery - and curator Brian Kennedy, who have forged an unprecedented relationship in 2020 to bring together an ambitious diverse programme of events showcasing the highest quality contemporary craft.

Crafting a Difference have launched in 2021 with a show in SoShiro, a Georgian townhouse in Marylebone, with two edits during London Art Fair and Collect. <https://www.craftingadifference.com>

About the galleries

Cavaliero Finn doesn't follow fashion or design trends in their selection of work; the emphasis is on originality and craftsmanship of the highest standard. They seek out quality, heirloom pieces which all have one thing in common: a stand-alone aesthetic beauty that will stand the test of time. They have built up an exceptional reputation amongst their clients and within the industry for showcasing the finest works from emerging, mid-career and established contemporary artists and makers. In addition to the curated selection of art and design available through the online gallery, the company curates regular exhibitions at its home galleries in London and Dorset as well as participating in contemporary art fairs within the UK.

jaggedart is renowned for its unique and very definite style, showcasing beautiful, intricate and sophisticated works of art. The gallery promotes up and coming artists through a varied programme of exhibitions which include painting, photography, works on paper and 3 dimensional pieces. Our programme varies between themed shows and solo exhibitions. Artists are invited to use the space in a dynamic way, creating site specific installations in the gallery and large shop frontage. The artists' intense involvement with the creative process, always evident, results in remarkably stimulating pieces. jaggedart works appeal both to new and experienced collectors. Our clients include museums, public collections, interior designers and hotels.

MADEINBRITALY Art Gallery showcases contemporary applied arts and collectible design, aiming to revive the connection between Italy and Great Britain, two nations that sought a synthesis between aesthetic value and the industrial production of manufactured goods. MADEINBRITALY pursues two main themes: one purely decorative, including unique pieces or very limited editions by contemporary artists and makers, the other focusing on exquisite objects of use created by contemporary designers. In addition to exhibiting artworks by established artists and designers, the gallery is also an experimental platform for emerging artists and designers, including a variety of media- from ceramic, glass, wood and textiles.

Ting-Ying brings a dynamic and highly influential mission to the world of contemporary craft by stimulating ongoing dialogues between East and West, tradition and innovation, function and aesthetics. The gallery invites artists to grapple with the enigma of how they can question the perceptions of the past while evolving new work which manifests a strong sense of continuity with the inspiration of history. The gallery is committed to supporting established and emerging artists, especially those from the Chinese diaspora. Ting-Ying is passionate about engaging a new audience with the exciting work that is emerging from the craft and design world. The gallery presents collectors and institutions with a curated selection of new and challenging work that radiates intention, integrity and a redefinition of what is expected from craft and design.

Vessel Gallery is a major destination for all those who appreciate contemporary art glass sculpture and decorative lighting. From the stunning

simplicity of Scandinavian crystal, via flamboyant Italian art glass, to the best of British and International creative talents, all pieces are unique or limited edition and have been carefully edited to show an unparalleled selection of contemporary design and craft. Vessel Gallery also edits its own editions, an ongoing programme working with emerging and established studio artists and designers, producing unique collections of exclusive limited-edition art works in glass and other materials. Vessel also consults for interior and corporate projects, providing the opportunity to have a truly bespoke commissioning service with unique works created in dialogue with the client.

CURATORS

For more than 30 years Andrea Harari has been curating exhibitions in public spaces and in her London gallery jaggedart, established in 2001. Her expertise includes general management of international art fairs ARTE BA (Buenos Aires, 1991- 1995); Latin American Art Fair PINTA London (London 2010-2015) and Crossroads (London 2016). Andrea is renowned for creating thought-provoking exhibitions and site installations, creating stimulating and unexpected dialogues between the works and the fabric of the venues such as the 2016/2018 Open House at the Argentine Ambassador's residence. Her experience offers a complete and unique understanding of large-scale projects from conception to delivery.

Brian Kennedy is an independent curator working predominantly in the craft and applied art area. Between 2002 and 2010 he curated a series of major exhibitions for the Crafts Council of Ireland, including "Forty Shades of Green" at the Lewis Glucksman Gallery, Cork and "Crafted Creatures" in conjunction with the Ark – Children's Cultural Centre, Dublin. Following this, he curated the highly acclaimed exhibitions, "Material Poetry" and "Dubh – Dialogues in Black" at the American Irish Historical Society, New York. In 2014 he curated the critically acclaimed exhibition "Vase Vessel Void" for the Oliver Sears Gallery and in 2015/16 "In Residence I & II" for the same gallery in London. Other notable projects are Walpole's "Crafted - Makers of Excellence" exhibitions at Somerset House, London in 2013 and at the Royal Academy, London in 2014.

PARTNERS

The Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QUEST) supports the training and education of talented and aspiring craftspeople through traditional college courses, vocational training, apprenticeships and one-to-one training with a master craftsperson; helping to support Britain's cultural heritage and sustain

vital skills in traditional and contemporary crafts.

<https://www.qest.org.uk/about-qest/>

Founded in 1972, the Crafts Council is the national charity for craft. Through a variety of activities that encompasses training, mentoring and advice to makers; running learning and participation programmes and presenting exhibitions and fairs, The Crafts Council inspire making, empower learning and nurture craft businesses.

The Crafts Council is supported by Arts Council England.

<https://www.craftscouncil.org.uk/about/our-work>

The **Michelangelo Foundation** for Creativity and Craftsmanship is an international non-profit organisation that celebrates and preserves master craftsmanship and strengthens its connection to the world of design. They want to help people rediscover the ability of the human hand to create, and support those doing it best: the exceptional contemporary European master artisans using long-held traditions, skills and knowledge to make beautiful objects of lasting value. The foundation was named after a beacon in this field, Michelangelo, a visionary artist and master artisan who embodied both creativity and craftsmanship at the very highest level of excellence.

<https://www.michelangelofoundation.org/en/the-foundation>

The LOEWE FOUNDATION

The LOEWE FOUNDATION was established as a private cultural foundation in 1988 by Enrique Loewe, a fourth-generation member of LOEWE's founding family. Today, under the direction of his daughter heila Loewe, the Foundation continues to promote creativity, organise educational programs and protect cultural heritage in the fields of poetry, dance, photography, design and craft. The Foundation was awarded the Gold Medal for Merit in the Fine Arts by the Spanish government in 2002.

<https://www.loewe.com/eur/en/loewe-foundation>

Cockpit Arts is London's leading studios for contemporary crafts and the UK's only business incubator for makers and designers. We are home to over 140 independent creative businesses at our sites in Deptford and Holborn. Through public showcases and business incubation services, we provide exceptional makers and materials-based artists with the tools to succeed. Many of the artists and makers based at Cockpit are recognised internationally as leaders in their field. www.cockpitarts.com

Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour is the world's premier destination for design and decoration excellence. Home to 120 showrooms and over 600 of the world's most prestigious luxury brands, it is the largest of its kind in Europe. More than a resource, it is a thriving platform, both creatively and

commercially, for an exceptionally dynamic industry. Nowhere else will you find such a high concentration of design's biggest names shaping luxury interiors today – all at one address. <https://www.dcch.co.uk>

Artegian Design, the exclusive marketplace for exceptional contemporary design and craft, launching in September 2021. www.artegian.com

Address:

Argentine Ambassador's Official Residence
49 Belgrave Square
London SW1X 8QZ

Booking via Eventbrite required for entry. Please see craftingadifference.com

Dates:

4-10 October

Opening times:

12 -5 pm

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