

Community news

We bring you the latest news from the world of woodturning as well as letters from the Woodworkers Institute forum and important dates for your diary from the woodturning community

Collaborations Revolving and Evolving

DETAILS:

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Examples of work by Eleanor Lakelin

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ELEANOR LAKELIN

The Worshipful Company of Turners of London run a charitable trust to promote the art and craft of turning on a lathe. They do this in a number of ways: by supporting the Register of Professional Turners, holding biennial turning competitions and awarding bursaries, grants and prizes to promising turners. They organise lectures and demonstrations to promote and preserve the craft and stage an increasingly popular four yearly exhibition entitled Wizardry in Wood, the next of which is scheduled for October, 2016.

Cockpit Arts

Cockpit Arts is an award-winning social enterprise and the UK's only creative-business incubator for designer-makers. They have helped thousands of talented craftspeople to grow their businesses, many of whom have gone on to achieve national and international success. Their mission is to support and promote talented designer-makers from all backgrounds through all stages of their career, striving to raise standards in the contemporary craft and design sectors and making an important contribution to the UK cultural landscape and economy. Both organisations are passionate about nurturing talent.

Cockpit Arts Turners Award

They joined forces in 2011 to create the first Cockpit Arts Turners Award. Lasting for one year, the award aims to help creative individuals with drive, an entrepreneurial spirit and the necessary craft skills to build a viable business from turning. Winners receive studio space and access to a lathe and workbench at Cockpit Arts Deptford, London SE8 together with business and professional development services, on-site coaching, a personalised development plan, business skills workshops and access to finance, IT and office facilities. Award winners benefit from the added bonus of working alongside fellow designer-makers and a range of selling and promotional opportunities including the popular Cockpit Arts Open Studios events.

In 2011, the award was split between two recipients: Eleanor Lakelin and Frank Boggis-Rolfe. Eleanor went on to invest in her business by buying a Graduate lathe having won the Jill Humphrey Springboard Prize offered through Cockpit Arts. She has worked with Cockpit Arts business coaches to help develop her profile and 2013 proved a busy year with showcases at Contemporary Applied Arts, HEAL's and exhibitions at the Balman Gallery and The New Craftsmen.

Frank is a craftsman specialising in contemporary furniture and furnishings with a background in drawing and printmaking. Since winning the Cockpit Arts Turners Award in 2011 he has built a portfolio of unique and individual designs.

Other artists

Chloe Robertson uses woodturning and raising silver to create her contemporary designs. She attended Bishopsland Educational Trust's postgraduate training course in silver-smithing and then moved to London to take up her Cockpit Arts Turners Award. She continues to refine her technique and plans to concentrate on turning thin, natural-edged bowls lined with silver leaf.

Matthew Corbishley took up his place at Cockpit Arts in October 2013. Specialising in bespoke cabinetmaking and woodturning, Matt's background is drawing, computers and woodwork. He aims to create work that captures the imagination and accomplishes its function using materials of the highest quality. His designs are traditionally built with a contemporary twist. At the time of going to press Matthew had been nominated for an International Arts and Crafts Design Award.