

CRAFTS

THE MAGAZINE FOR CONTEMPORARY CRAFT

AQUA FRESH

*The undersea
world of
Julia Lohmann*

COLD COMFORT

*Tracey Rowledge
in the Arctic*

THE MEAL DEAL

*Ferran Adrià, the
culinary craftsman*

MATERIAL GAINS

*Why we like to
collect stuff*



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Helen Carnac creates an exhibition that focuses on slowing things down

Time well spent

Launching in October, *Taking Time* looks at craft's relationship to the burgeoning Slow Movement. Curated by Helen Carnac under the aegis of Birmingham-based crafts development agency Craftspace, it showcases 16 international makers who investigate such themes as time and process, economy and material, community and society, and the nature of production and consumption.

Carnac was approached two years ago by Craftspace's Andy Horn, to do something on the theme of slowness. A blog, *makingaslowrevolution*, was the first consequence, says the curator, connecting them to 'people around the world talking about the same issues.' Craftspace then commissioned artist Russell Martin to run a series of what it calls 'creative dialogues' with makers round the country, entitled *Analogue*. In many respects, *Taking Time* is the culmination of all this, the curator approaching some participants, others offering their services.

'We wanted it to be an exploratory process,' explains Carnac. 'We didn't just want to come up with a set of concepts. We hoped people would come to us and say what they thought slowness meant to them. We put an idea out there and hoped something would come back. We called for people to send stuff in, and looked for people at the same time.'

A selection panel whittled entrants down to a final 16, from a range of crafts disciplines and a host of countries, including the UK, the USA, Poland, Holland and Germany. Many will be familiar to regular readers of *Crafts*: letter-cutter Gary Breeze, ceramist Neil Brownsword, furniture-maker David Gates, Sonya Clark who works with hair, and artist Shane Waltener. Carnac says the majority of the UK-based makers will be showing new work, while Rebecca Earley will consolidate the *Top 100* shirt-recycling project she's been working on since 2000. '*Taking Time*' is at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery 17 October - 4 January before touring to eight other venues nationally.

See *Crafts* guide for further details.
www.craftspace.co.uk,
makingaslowrevolution.wordpress.com



Above, *Cardigan Study*, Amy Houghton, stop-frame animation, 2006
 Clockwise from left: *In Our Houses* (detail), David Gates; *Afro Abe II*, Sonya Clark, hand-

embroidery on five dollar bill, 2008-9; brooch from *Mind In The Hand* series, Esther Knobel, silver, iron, 2007 *Cow in a Meadow*, Paul Scott, earthenware, plate 35cm diam., 2007