

# Fife Artists' & Makers' Forum 2010

Rothes Halls, Glenrothes, Fife, KY7 5NX  
Saturday 17 April, 10am-4pm



## Information on speakers

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### ❖ Justin Carter

Following graduation from the MFA programme at Glasgow School of Art, Justin Carter was selected for New Contemporaries 2000. Later that year he took up the inaugural residency at Cove Park, showing work at Tramway, Glasgow. Since 2003 he has taught in the Department of Sculpture and Environmental Art where he is developing cross-school projects related to sustainability, ecology and art. Justin has exhibited work throughout the UK and abroad including a special commission for the 2004 Whitstable Biennale where he gifted free produce from his solar powered ice-cream stall. More recently he developed a work for the 'Stavanger 2008' which allowed residents to donate human energy to a lighting system installed beneath the city road bridge. He is currently working towards a solo exhibition at Grand Union in Birmingham.

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### ❖ Dr Emilia Ferrara

Lecturer in Sustainable Development, University of St Andrews. My interests lie at the interface of anthropology, craft and sustainability. A social and economic anthropologist, I have developed a strong interest in understanding the way culture (broadly defined to include worldviews, cosmologies, belief systems and values) shapes our daily behaviour and choices. In this respect, I am interested in exploring in what ways the concept of the human being, nature and society that lies at the core of craft practice can contribute to the sustainability project. Having lived for many years with the Indigenous Peoples of the Andes, I have developed an appreciation for different ways of knowing, so I am exploring what kind of knowledge and related values and awareness, "making" brings to sustainability.

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## ❖ Claire Heminsley

Designer, maker, artist, illustrator, organiser

Her distinctive work has an illustrative quality with its inspiration rooted in the everyday. She graduated from Glasgow School of Art having specialised in Textiles. Since then she has worked freelance trading as Incahoots.

Rather than being material or technique specific, she utilises an inventive broad approach to the drawn mark. Drawing is the integral component, whether made through traditional drawing materials, wire, scraper board or the use of stitch and fabric. Funding from the Scottish Arts Council has enabled Claire to develop her practice integrating traditional and new technologies, particularly the use of digital print alongside screen-print and stitch, working in an increased scale in 2 and 3 dimensions suitable for different environments.

Claire is influenced by many things including the connections and stories within our everyday - 'the extraordinary in the ordinary'; the client's brief; the world around her.



## ❖ Babs McCool

Babs McCool has had a number of hands-on roles in the arts in urban and rural settings, working in a community development context in Greater Manchester, Tayside and Fife on collaborative arts projects, curating and managing a travelling gallery for schools and communities and commissioning and facilitating public art.

Babs was the first Director of the University of Dundee's Visual Research Centre at DCA where she curated and managed a public programme of interdisciplinary exhibitions, events and residencies. She then worked briefly as the Scottish Arts Council's cross artform and digital media officer and for the Community Media Association as its Scotland development manager before returning to work for the new Arts and Theatres Trust Fife's arts development team.

Babs has just set up her own company Spacesuit Arts Services providing project management services to arts and voluntary sectors and is currently working with PACE public art commissions agency on a number of projects across Scotland.



## ❖ Simon Murray

Simon Murray (SaiMuRai) is a writer, poet, artist, graphic designer of Pomfretian-Bajan heritage (depending on who's asking). In a former life he worked in advertising. He has been clean for over a decade. The first part of his debut novel, *'Kill Myself Now: The True Confessions of an Advertising Genius'* is published by Peepal Tree Press.

In 2009 Simon was one of 2 commissioned poets from African Writers Abroad to work with PLATFORM on the C Words project – an investigation into Carbon, Culture, Climate & Capital.

Simon's poetry, essays and short stories have been published in numerous magazines and anthologies. He is a regular performer of spoken word, is a poet coach for the Leeds Young Author's Team Poetry Slam and currently runs creative writing workshops with the radical arts organisation Artists in Mind (AiM).

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## ❖ Dot Sim

Dot Sim is an award winning jewellery designer and maker who exhibits both nationally and internationally. This is her second career, and since graduating as a mature student she has done several residencies including projects at Northlands Creative Glass and Shetland Arts Trust. She has developed her skills by attending courses in traditional techniques at Alchemia School in Florence, and masterclasses with Giovanni Corvaja in Todi. She runs occasional weekend courses for beginners in her studio in Newport in Tay, and is a visiting lecturer at both Duncan of Jordanstone and Grays Schools of Art.

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## ❖ Laura Simpson

Laura has been Assistant Curator for Exhibitions at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design since 2007 where she works on a diverse exhibition and event programme involving students, staff and invited artists across five galleries. Professional development for students and staff is very important in this role and involves project work, tutorials, application draft reading, talks, events and lectures. Exhibitions also functions as a hub for information for those within the college and also for external curators and other professionals.

After completing an MFA at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, Laura was involved with the artist-led group Generator for several years, latterly as the Chairperson of the committee. During this period she managed and curated many on and off-site projects with local and international artists as well as working on building links with other artist-groups throughout Europe.

Laura also continues to develop solo curation and writing projects for example 'Companion Piece' an exhibition in May 2008 which showcased the work of three Dundee based artists in a vacant shop nearby the art college and an interview with artist Aileen Campbell for art ' zine Yuck 'N Yum. Laura has recently presented a screening event with Jordan Baseman and is working on a written piece for the related website :

[www.naturesgreatexperiment.com](http://www.naturesgreatexperiment.com)

Laura is a member of Visual Arts and Galleries Scotland Development Group [www.vaga.co.uk](http://www.vaga.co.uk) , the Dundee Visual Artists Award Scheme Panel [www.dvaa.info/](http://www.dvaa.info/) and the Cultural Agencies Network working group. In early 2010 Laura became a Board Member for Fife Contemporary Art & Craft [www.fcac.co.uk/](http://www.fcac.co.uk/) .

<http://www.exhibitions.dundee.ac.uk/laurasimpson.html>

<http://laurasimpson.wordpress.com>

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## ❖ Carol Sinclair (Sinclair Wilson Ltd)

Carol Sinclair, Edinburgh Adviser, Cultural Enterprise Office. Carol has been working within the creative industries for the last 20 years, combining running her own ceramics practice with delivering business support and training for a range of cultural enterprises. She is a ceramics graduate of Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen and had 14 years experience of running her own studio and gallery in Edinburgh. Working as a business adviser and trainer for the last 10 years, Carol joined the CEO team in 2005. She was a founder member of artists collective design-ED, is a former director of Applied Arts Scotland, has been a specialist adviser for the Scottish Arts Council and is currently a member of two of the Creative & Cultural Skills Council's employers groups, Scottish and Crafts. Carol is also involved in a variety of projects with organisations which support creative practitioners and most recently include Ideasmart, craftscotland and Glasgow School of Art. She is currently working with Edinburgh College of Art on a 4 year employability project supporting the development and delivery of professional practice for students.

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## ❖ Emma Walker

Chief Executive, craftscotland

Emma began her career in marketing and audience development during a work placement in the marketing office at the Empire Theatre, Sunderland whilst studying towards a BA (Hons) in Theology and Professional Media. In her second year at university she joined West Yorkshire Playhouse (Leeds) as Box Office Assistant and by the time of graduation she was co-managing the largest box office outside of London. Soon after, she 'moved upstairs' to the marketing team where she enjoyed a year's sponsorship from the New Audiences scheme which allowed her to develop the Community Network scheme – a programme which is still held up as best practice today. After a stint at the Royal Exchange Theatre (Manchester) she moved back to Leeds to work in the Marketing and Communications team of the Learning and Leisure department. It was at this point in her career when she began to utilise sustainable marketing and audience development tools, namely technology and people. After three years and three promotions within the marketing team, she moved to Arts About Manchester where she managed the audience development team and worked across many art forms.

Emma joined craftscotland in October 2008 as Chief Executive. craftscotland is the audience development agency for Scottish craft. As a new organisation with a small marketing budget it has been essential for the team to use sustainable practices within their audience development plan. Emma will talk about some of these initiatives today.

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