



**THOMAS
JACOBI**

Anvil C

by Thomas Jacobi

2014

I have transferred characteristics of the work of John Creed into the language of my own materials and techniques. Thinking of the hard labour of blacksmithing, I intended to document the work process on metal, John's tools and other objects in his workshop with ink rubbings.

The ink rubbing on paper visualises the haptic qualities of a surface and all the marks and traces which were created on the object during the work process; deliberately, by chance or over time.

Fire, water, the noise of hammering, smell, the texture of forged metal, the shape and heaviness of the object, its colour and texture on the surface inspires me to design and make the frame. With this work, the metal of the anvil slightly stained the paper and I decided to use yew veneer to emphasise the beauty of this effect.

Ink on Paper

14.8 x 85.6cm approx

Frame - yew veneer on multiplex

103.5 x 33cm approx

Photo Vincenzo di Cosmo

THOMAS JACOBI

■ **Where are you based?**

Based in Glasgow. I work in my studio/workshop, all kind of places to make ink rubbings, and public places for performances.

■ **What is your definition / the definition you prefer of craft?**

For me, it is the balance between idea and result, understanding of material and well trained skills.

■ **How does craft relate to your practice as an artist?**

Craft is the foundation to bring an idea to life.

■ **How did you acquire the skills required for your practice?**

Since I am trained as a painter and print-maker, 'learning skills' is just a first step. Taking the long way is probably 'trial and error' and 'learning by doing'.

■ **How did this prepare you for your practice?**

For this project I tried to do everything differently from my usual practice of making ink rubbings and frames. Pondering on my understanding of the different material, skills and intention; I just asked myself: Is it possible to do it?

■ **3 key opportunities you have experienced in your career?**

1 - 'material'

2 - 'idea'

3 - 'work'



What does the work of John Creed mean to you?

I hadn't thought of metal as a material which 'spoke' to me before I visited John Creed's workshop some time ago. A blacksmith's workshop is a very archaic, meaningful place and creating a work is hard labour. The ink rubbing may express another aspect of John's artistic practice.

*Download this booklet free from
<http://www.fcac.co.uk/event/craft-generation/>
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From the series of ink rubbings made in
John Creed's workshop
2014
Photo Vincenzo di Cosmo



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Exhibition View, Liverpool
2008



