

## CR&FT SHOWCASE AT TOP DRAWER, LONDON

### **Contemporary Highlands & Islands Design Showcase at Top Drawer Olympia, London, Sunday 17 – Tuesday 19 January 2016**

Nine top Highlands & Islands designer makers will be showcasing their work at the trade show, CRAFT at Top Drawer, which takes place at Olympia in London from Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The nine designers will be on the Emergents stand C-H27.

Emergents is a community interest company that nurtures creative businesses and careers in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. The showcase, branded Cr&FT, forms part of their programme of support for professional craft makers and fashion designers provided throughout the year. Emergents is one of 4 Trade Networks funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (through European ERDF funds) and is a key part of HIE's support strategy for the creative industries in the Highlands and Islands.

Building on the **Cr&FT** platform which was launched at XPONorth in June 2015, this is Emergents' third showcase at Craft London. The showcase is made up of 9 designers across textiles, jewellery and fashion. Each designer is at a different stage in their career journey with some already having experience of trading internationally whereas others are new start ups who have not taken part in a trade show before.

Designers Netty Sopata of **Diggory Brown**, **Eileen Gatt**, and **Gilly Langton** exhibited at the event in its first year and are returning for the third year with new work. Jewellery Designer **Heather McDermott** and Textile Designer **Emma Noble** return for their second year, with new work and collections to show. New to the event this year are designers **Rae Anne**, **Crùbag**, **Rarebird** and **Hume Sweet Hume**.

As part of the showcase the designers who have exhibited previously at CRAFT with emergents will mentor and support those who are just beginning their journey to trade internationally and for who this will be their first trade fair.

**Emergents** ([www.emergents.co.uk](http://www.emergents.co.uk)) are providing support for the designers makers by assisting with promotion, training and stand costs.

The Craft element of Top Drawer (<http://www.topdrawer.co.uk/craft-sectors>) is a trade show which celebrates the handmade, with over 100 leading Makers and Artisans' work on show throughout the three day event.

### **ABOUT THE DESIGNERS:**

#### **See Note for Editors: Exhibiting Designer Makers (below)**

With an emphasis on training and networking, the showcase opportunity, is part of emergents programme of initiatives to support professional designer makers from the Highlands & Islands of Scotland. The programme, provided throughout the year, includes specialist workshops on business areas such as marketing, trading internationally, visual merchandising

and building networks. They also organise gallery and retailer visits to meet buyers and broaden the business knowledge of how the retailing process works.

2016 will be a busy year for emergents as they continue to support the work of professional designer makers under their new Cr&FT brand, including exhibiting at the top design trade show TENT London as part of London Design Week and also at Xpo North, the Creative Industries festival, in Inverness.

Scotland accounts for almost 15% of the UK's total craft businesses (3,350 from a UK total of 23,000), working predominantly in jewellery, textiles and ceramics with an estimated total income of £70million. (*Craft in an Age of Change: Creative Scotland Summary Report, Bop Consulting, February 2012, page 5*)

Recognised as an area that nurtures its creative talent, the Highlands and Islands is home to some of the most outstanding and successful creative businesses. Emergents estimate that there are approximately 350 crafts, fashion and textiles businesses in the region – a 2013 evaluation of Highlands and Islands Enterprise support for the creative industries highlighted key successes, helping put the region on the map as a creative centre. (*Key Successes 279 jobs 9.5M GVA, HIE Creative Industries Strategy, 2014-2019, page 5*)

*“By participating at Craft, Top Drawer for the third year we hope to continue building the profile of our top makers to increase sales and to develop new networks” Pamela Conacher, Director, Emergents*

**Cr&FT Showcase takes place at stand C-H27, Top Drawer, Olympia, London, W14 8UX**

Sunday 17 – Tuesday 19 January 2015

### **Exhibiting Makers**

1. Gilly Langton: Contemporary jewellery designer <http://gillylangton.co.uk>
2. Eileen Gatt: Contemporary Jewellery & silversmith designer <http://eileengatt.co.uk>
3. Heather McDermott: Contemporary jewellery designer <http://www.heathermcdermott.com>
4. Diggory Brown by Netty Sopata: Bespoke kilts & fashion accessories <http://www.diggorybrown.com>
5. Crùbag by Jessica Giannotti: Textiles – scarves and cushions <http://www.crubag.co.uk>
6. Rae Anne: Interior textiles, lampshades, cushions and notebooks [raeanne.co.uk](http://raeanne.co.uk)
7. Emma Noble Textiles – scarves, bow ties and pocket squares [emmanoblecreates.co.uk](http://emmanoblecreates.co.uk)
8. Rarebirdby Paulette Brough: Textiles – bags, scarves, pins [rarebirdhandbags.com](http://rarebirdhandbags.com)
9. Hume Sweet Hume by Lizza & Genna Hume <http://www.humesweethume.co.uk>

### **Emergents**

- Cr&FT is a platform created by Emergents to showcase curated contemporary craft, fashion and textiles from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.
- Emergents Creatives Community Interest Company Ltd aims to support the development of creative careers, enterprise and the economy in the Highlands and Islands

of Scotland and beyond by nurturing creative talent and specific support including mentoring, training, advice and networking.

- The work of Crafts, Fashion and Textiles through Emergents is funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (through European ERDF funds) and is a key part of HIE's support strategy for the creative industries in the Highlands and Islands.
- Contact details:
  - Two: 8 Studios, First Floor, 28 Church Street, Inverness IV1 1EH.
- [emergents.co.uk](http://emergents.co.uk)
- [twitter.com/CrFtinfo](https://twitter.com/CrFtinfo)
- [facebook.com/CrFTemergents/](https://facebook.com/CrFTemergents/)

### **Top Drawer**

- The UK's leading international design-led trade show for creative retailers and brands.
- The Spring 2016 edition has evolved to include four distinctive retail sectors– Home, Gift, Fashion and Craft – under one, united Top Drawer brand, creating one major destination for design-led products and buyers from all over the world.
- **Stand:** C-H27
- **Sectors:** Home; Gift; Fashion; Craft
- <http://www.topdrawer.co.uk/>

### **TENT London**

- 22-25 September 2016
- A design led trade fair, featuring thousands of new furniture, lighting, interiors products and ideas launched over the 4-day event. Tent London is the show for original thinkers and early adopters looking to discover the best in contemporary design.
- Located in the iconic ex-industrial building at the Old Truman Brewery for the 10th year, Tent & Super Brands London will host over 450 diverse and inspiring independent designers, global brands and installations from 29 countries.
- 11 gallery shows and super global brands presenting a vast and diverse range of furniture, lighting, textiles and interior products for over 25,000 visitors
- <http://www.tentlondon.co.uk>

*The work of XpoNorth Crafts, Fashion and Textiles through Emergents is funded by HIE (through European ERDF funds) and is a key part of HIE's support strategy for the creative industries in the Highlands and Islands.*