

Press Release

Date: 17 March 2015

The Royal College of Art at the Pitt Rivers Museum

Tall Tales: Making Social Networks
27th March - 7th June 2015

A case display of work by RCA Jewellery and Metal MA students

Exploration into the need for, use and unique qualities of Museum artefacts creates a catalyst for conversations, linking the threads of their social and historical origins, recognising communal uses, inviting collective memories and nostalgic narratives.

As a starting point, each student has selected a group of related objects from the Museum's vast collection with the notion of making the original social network. The wide range of chosen Museum artefacts include a Korean jewelled pocketknife, Egyptian amulets, headdresses, an embroidered wedding jacket, ex-votos, surgical instruments and toy animals.

This diverse selection has inspired the students' making process, using traditional crafts such as embroidery, mould making and casting, through to the most up to date computer based design. Such processes require a thorough exploration of the materials used and a developing understanding of the skills and knowledge demonstrated by the original makers.

The recording of their research is an integral part of this project and the work has been documented through film and photography, also on display. Several concepts have led to collaborations between artists and other contributors to the making process.

This will be the third year that the Pitt Rivers Museum and the Royal College of Art have joined together to present an exhibition, following on from *Distantly Relative* 2014 and *In Reverse* 2013. *Tall Tales: Making Social Networks* showcases the captivatingly intuitive work of seven up and coming artists, makers and designers.

The participants of the project are:

Laura Davis
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Notes for Editors

- The Pitt Rivers Museum is one of Oxford's most popular attractions, famous for its period atmosphere and outstanding collections from many cultures around the world, past and present. Admission, exhibitions and events are FREE.
- The Pitt Rivers Museum was founded in 1884 when General Pitt-Rivers, an influential figure in the development of archaeology and evolutionary anthropology, gave his personal collection of 30,000 items to the University on condition that a museum was built to house the material, and that a post was created to lecture in anthropology. Today the collection numbers some 600,000 items and the Museum remains an active department of Oxford University, doing and supporting research and teaching in archaeology and anthropology.
- This display is in association with VERVE, a £1.6 million, five-year project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Alongside vital conservation and gallery improvements, it provides a wide-ranging programme of free public activities under the theme of 'Need, Make, Use', illuminating the ways in which human creativity and ingenuity have driven developments in design and technologies.

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