Tall Tales: Making Social Networks

GSM&J, Royal College of Art
27 March – 7 June 2015

Using traditional crafts, such as embroidery, mould making and casting through to the most up-to-date computer-based design, seven up-and-coming artists, makers and designers explore the social and historical origins of Pitt Rivers artefacts through their own creative processes. Linked to the Need Make Use project.

Mixed media

https://vimeo.com/121804018
https://vimeo.com/125447534

Containing...

Foundation, Rycotewood Furniture Centre, City of Oxford College
29 January – 15 March 2015

Inspired by the Museum’s organisation of objects by ‘type’, second-year students developed the theme to embrace both practical and more conceptual ideas of containment. Linked to the Need Make Use project.

Mixed media
**Inspiring Amulets**

**Year 10, Langtree School**
15 January – 8 March 2015

With tuition from jewellery designer-maker Kate Coker, students learned the techniques of repoussé and chasing to create low-relief designs. These copper amulets were inspired by votive offerings in the collections. Linked to the Need Make Use project.

Metalwork

**Oxfordshire Travellers’ Stories**

**Four local Traveller communities**
5 December 2014 – 18 January 2015

Local Traveller communities presented their own stories through pictures, objects and cultural tales integral to their values, history and lifestyle.

Mixed media
**Distantly Relative**

GSM&J, Royal College of Art  
6 June – 20 July 2014

The creation of contemporary designs embracing emerging technologies, behaviour and beliefs, which sprang from ideas generated by individual objects on display. Linked to the Need Make Use project.

Mixed media

[https://vimeo.com/96917305](https://vimeo.com/96917305)

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**That’s Entertainment**

Foundation, Rycotewoood Furniture Centre, City of Oxford College  
4 April – 26 May 2014

Students experimented with a range of materials and processes, such as veneering, wood turning and metalwork, to produce contemporary designs inspired by the Museum’s cases displaying toys and games. Linked to the Need Make Use project.

Mixed media
Inventions for Living

**Foundation in Art, Oxford Brookes University**
28 February – 23 March 2014

Approaching the artefacts as design solutions for everyday life, students created subversive alternatives. Also at the Museum of the History of Science. Linked to the Need Make Use project.

Mixed media

Retelling the Tales

**Oxford High School**
5 December 2013 – 5 January 2014

Pupils created puppets inspired by the Museum’s shadow puppets, and the Arabian Nights, using clay and textiles. Linked to the Need Make Use project.

Mixed media
Puppets at the Circus

**Giffords Circus**
3 October – 16 November 2013

A presentation showing the development and use of ‘humanette’ puppetry for this year’s production, along with other masks and costume used in the circus. Linked to the Need Make Use project.

Mixed media

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**Soundweaves**

**Basketry Plus**
13 June – 15 November 2013

Group show pushing the boundaries of basket-making in response to selected basketry on display, and including associated audio tracks. Linked to the Need Make Use project.

Basketry

http://pitrivers-sound.blogspot.co.uk/2013/05/soundweaves-at-pitt-rivers-museum.html
In Reverse

GSM&J, Royal College of Art
2 May – 2 June 2013

Testing the line between innovation and tradition, students built on the real or imagined history of chosen artefacts to inspire new and personal work. Linked to the Need Make Use project.

Mixed media

https://vimeo.com/64881897
https://vimeo.com/64882148
https://vimeo.com/64899763

Furnishing the Pitt Rivers Museum

Foundation, Rycotewood Furniture Centre, City of Oxford College
4 March – 21 April 2013

Using a range of materials and processes and referencing the stools, headrests and other artefacts on display, students created designs for robust, entertaining or stackable stools. Linked to the Need Make Use project.

Mixed media
Space and Time

Foundation in Art, Oxford Brookes University
1 February – 3 March 2013

Exploring the network of stories suggested by the objects, and how such contexts and occasions, background and circumstance play an integral part in our understanding of the who, what and where of our existence.

Mixed media

https://vimeo.com/58029342

We Bury Our Own

Christian Thompson
26 June 2012 – 3 January 2013

Eight large self-portraits and a video made by a leading contemporary Aboriginal artist in response to the Museum’s historic photograph collection from Australia.

Photographic prints and a video installation

http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/christianthompson.html
https://vimeo.com/44050317
Tales of Magical Objects

Cheltenham Illustration Award, University of Gloucester
18 October – 25 November 2012

A selection of entries to an international competition for students and emerging illustrators, taking inspiration from the Museum’s amulet collection. Associated display of entries to a schools competition.

Digital Prints

Necessity, the Mother of Invention

Foundation in Art, Oxford Brookes University
3 February – 17 March 2012

Exploration of the human capacity for invention whether for lighting, or shelter, navigation or calculation. Also at the Museum of the History of Science.

Mixed media

https://vimeo.com/album/2701294/video/36075120
The Curious Nature of Objects: Sue Johnson's Paper Museum

Sue Johnson
24 January – 10 June 2012

An expanded second exhibition inspired by the catalogue of General Pitt-Rivers’s second collection. Works blur the boundaries between natural and cultural worlds, playing with the confusion of names and meanings, function and form.

Watercolours

New Iron Age

Helen and Wez Jacobs, Steve Hurst, Daniel Hunt
24 November 2011 – 23 January 2012

The culmination of a collaborative project with the Bullpen Foundry following the iron casting process from research to iron pour. The artists illustrated this process with drawings, photographs, moulds etc., and four finished pieces were inserted into the permanent displays cases.

Mixed media

https://vimeo.com/34606161
Illuminated Letters

Kevin Farrell

The creation of an alphabet in which the shape and character of each letter representing an object from the collections. The work was displayed beneath glass table-tops on the Clore Balcony. Accompanied by a schools competition in which children used the same approach to create an object label.

Works on paper

Gallimaufry: Brookes’ Cabinet of Curiosities

Foundation in Art, Oxford Brookes University
4 February – 20 March 2011

Exploring the reasons why we collect, display, and archive material, students incorporated words and documents to trap memories and experience in their 3D work.

Mixed media
The Curious Nature of Objects

Sue Johnson
24 January – 2 May 2011

Illustrating objects listed in General Pitt-Rivers’s second, but long-since dispersed, collection in a quasi-naturalist style. Inanimate objects, once themselves made in nature’s image, are depicted as plants or animals.

Watercolours

Time and Space

Dionne Barber, Adam Griffiths
28 April – 14 June 2010

A personal response to space and the traces of existence caught within the displays, reflected in the case glass.

Works on paper
DisGuise and Dolls

Foundation in Art, Oxford Brookes University
5 February – 21 March 2010

Using the representation of the human form within the displays as a starting point, students focused on the contemporary meaning and use of dolls, and in particular as a representation of their ‘self’.

Mixed media

Objects in Performance: Cabinet of Curiosities

Gerard Mermoz
12 June 2009 – 11 January 2010

Reinterpreting traditional approaches to ethnographic display by exchanging scientific taxonomy for theatrical staging.

Found objects, prints
Inspired for Life

Chenderit School
14 December 2009 – 16 January 2010

Supported by artist Heather Barnett, students were introduced to the design process from initial brief to repeat pattern production, to create textile designs based on the collections. Part of the Design for Life initiative led by the V&A.

Textiles, paper, digital

Behind the Facade

brook & black
1 December 2007 – 24 February 2008

This community project led by artists Leora Brook and Tyffany Black started with interviews and photography, and acknowledged those who work behind the scenes, across the Oxford University Museums. Part of the wider, ACE-funded Oxfordshire Reflections programme.

Mixed media
**Trace**

**Les Biggs**  
20 October 2007 – 29 June 2008

Focusing on observation of the working methods for storage associated with anthropology and museum practice, using labels and boxes.

Ceramics

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**Kitty Lake Collection, 1904 - 2001**

**Sally Hampson**  
19 May – 7 October 2007

Telling stories through objects, this visual narrative documented a fictional explorer’s travels, with the use of suitcases, archive boxes and souvenirs.

Mixed media
Aerial Wish

Naoko Miyazaki
21 May 2006 – 7 January 2007

Responding to the uniqueness of the Museum’s interior, three paper staircases led the eye and the imagination up to areas of the Museum inaccessible at the time (due to building works).

Paper installation

Slight Shifts

Wong Hoy Cheong
29 May – 1 August 2004

Using colour and light to shift the visitor’s experience of and response to artefacts within the galleries. Linked with Oxford Brookes University and Fotonet South.

Light Installation
Union Jack

Gonkar Gyatso
15 November 2003 – 14 January 2004

A comment on life as a Tibetan refugee, produced during a ten-month residency funded by The Leverhulme Trust. In association with the Museum’s exhibition ‘Seeing Lhasa’.

Photographic prints, textile installation

Osiris

Netta Jordan
13 – 28 September 2003

Installation using video taken of the ‘twilight underworld’ beneath the Court gratings, displayed on two monitors housed in specially built ‘pyramids’. Linked with the Ruskin School of Drawing.

Mixed media

Losing the Thread

Losing the Thread exhibiting group
12 May – 7 September 2003

Following study visits to the Museum, group members created textile work inspired by artefacts on display.

Mixed media
Mrs Cook’s Kete

Christine Hellyar, Maureen Lander
2 November 2002 – 27 April 2003

Work placed throughout the displays exploring hypothetical interactions, such as the sharing of skills, between women from opposite sides of the world during the late eighteenth century. Supported by New Zealand Arts.

Mixed media

Object Parts? From the Lighting Store

Michelle Stevenson
8 July – 29 Sept 2002

The display of an incongruous collection of miscellaneous objects and fragments, boxed away by earlier conservators in the lighting store, drew attention to curatorial and conservation activities behind the displays. Linked with the Ruskin School of Drawing.

Mixed media
Games

**Foundation, Buckinghamshire and Chilterns University College**
2 July – 1 September 2001

Work exploring associations and memories of childhood springing from the displays of games and toys.

Mixed Media

Voices

**Mamoru Abe**
5 May – 7 June 2001

Hammered zinc sheets, placed on top of the ground floor cases, created a swirling, seemingly floating, horizontal plane within the central void of the galleries when viewed from above. Also at the University Museum of Natural History. Linked with the Ruskin School of Drawing.

3D Installation and works on paper
Stored and Sorted

Foundation, Oxfordshire School of Art and Design
6 April - ? November 2001

Using a set of drawers no longer required by the Museum, students focused on the processes by which humans order and understand their world and thereby add value to mundane objects. Linked to the Museum’s exhibition Transformations: The Art of Recycling.

Mixed media

Artwork on the theme of Recycling

Didcot Girls School

GCSE students, supported by artist Lucy Casson, produced work using reclaimed materials. Some were later incorporated into the exhibition Transformations: The Art of Recycling. This led to the first use of a gallery wall case to display work (subsequently dedicated to this use). At an evening event pupils also performed ‘recycled’ music and texts.

Mixed media, performance
Joachim Schmidt
Collection

Joachim Schmidt
25 March 2000 – 28 April 2002

Postcards ‘recycling’ stereotypical images were juxtaposed with objects in the displays to question the meaning of such classifications by ‘type’. Linked to the Museum’s exhibition Transformations: The Art of Recycling.

Postcard Installation

The Segsbury Project

Simon Callery, Andrew Watson
20 September – 1 November 1997

Exploring parallels between archaeological and fine art processes relating to the Segsbury Iron Age hill-fort dig. Shown in the Balfour Building annexe and University Museum of Natural History.

Photographic installation

Cleaning the Mirror

Marina Abramovíc
9 April – 17 June 1995

Screens placed on and within cases showed real-time film of ritual performances by the artist. Linked with Museum of Modern Art (now MAO)

Video installation
The Rishmoo Collection: Northwest Pacific Ocean

Sally Hampson
23 January – 17 April 1995

A craft and memorabilia collection representing Kitty Lake’s travels in 1927, evoked an imagined island culture as experienced during the anthropologist’s field work amongst them. Shown in Balfour Building annexe.

Mixed Media

Divers Memories

Chris Dorsett (lead artist and curator)
1 October – 31 December 1994

Group show by 50 professional and non-professional artists. A large collective venture that confounded fact with fiction, blurring boundaries by merging 73 contemporary works within the permanent displays. Shown in the Museum galleries and Balfour Building annexe, and linked with Oxford Artweeks.

Mixed media, performance, outreach programme
Strange Territory

Elizabeth Williams, Elizabeth Edwards
1 October – 31 December 1994

A collaborative dialogue exploring the boundaries between ethnographic document and photographic expression. Linked with Museum of Modern Art, Oxford (now MAO) and part of ‘Signals: Festival of Women Photographers’.

Photography and text

Baka: Forest People

Su Hart, Martin Cradick
9 March – 7 May 1994

Documenting the artists’ stay among the Baka people near the Cameroon- Congo border. Sound recordings of music by both the Baka and Cradick were complemented by sketches made in the rainforest, and paintings completed back in England.

Work on paper, music, workshops. Sale of recordings in aid of Baka community.
**Paintings and Drawings**

**David Paskett**  
26 May – 6 June 1993

Investigating the relationship between still life and museum display, the works depicted artefact-filled cases and views of the Museum interior.

Pastels and watercolour

**Snares of Privacy and Fiction**

**Chris Dorsett (lead artist and curator)**  
20 May – 27 June 1992

Group show by twelve artists. The title was taken from James Fenton’s poem ‘The Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford’, suggesting that visitors to the museum might be unexpectedly ‘snared’ by works of art. The scope of Dorsett’s projects expanded to include poetry and experimental music and well as visual arts. Shown in the Museum galleries and Balfour Building annexe, and linked with Oxford Artweeks.

Mixed media, performance, outreach programme.
Utrum Angelus sit in Loco

Chris Dorsett
18 May – 1 June 1991


Mixed media

Rituals and Relics

Carolyn Trant
†1991

Featuring prehistoric earthworks on the South Downs, which have themselves been constantly transformed by human hands, and the rituals in which associated relics played a part both then and now within the Museum. Shown in Balfour Building annexe.

Drawings and prints

No image available
Upturned Ark

Chris Dorsett (lead artist and curator)
7 May – 30 June 1990

Group show by ten artists, using a map to coax visitors to search out the art works, stimulating a series of visual links and perceptions. Shown in the Museum galleries and Balfour Building annexe, and linked with Oxford Artweeks.

Mixed media, audio-visual, associated schools project, and children’s workshop

Chanting Genealogies

Chris Dorsett
20 May – 4 June 1989

Based on a photograph in the Museum’s archives, taken in Karelia (Finland), this solo show explored the museum processes by which folk traditions are represented and preserved whilst their original context is lost. Shown in Balfour Building annexe, and linked with Oxford Artweeks.

Sculpture, installations, dance performance with Cecelia Macfarlane in shopping centre
Instruments of war

Steve Hurst, Brian Yale, Lol David
13 November 88 – 13 March 1989

Bringing together Naga, Dayak and European artefacts with contemporary work. Associated with Bicester Community College. Shown in Balfour Building annexe.

Mixed media including video

Gathering Rites

Chris Dorsett (artist curator)
21 May - 18 June 1988

Group show by eight artists. This ‘sculptural exploration’ sought to link the creative practice of the artists with the secret past of the still and silent objects on display. Shown in Balfour Building annexe, and linked with Oxford Artweeks.

Sculpture, performance, audio-visual
Instruments

Chris Dorsett and the Ruskin School of Art staff and students
23 May – 7 June 1987

Group show inspired by the musical instruments on display. Dance artist Cecelia Macfarlane worked with Kidlington Adult Training Centre to create a slide-tape presentation for the gallery’s audio-visual booth. Shown in Balfour Building annexe, and linked with Oxford Artweeks.

Sculpture, dance, audio-visual, outreach programme