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Media release

Australian
Design
Centre



Sydney Craft Week 2021 Digital program launch

Australian Design Centre today announces the program for the upcoming Sydney Craft Week Festival 2021.

The festival will run from Friday 8 to Sunday 17 October.

Celebrating the 5th year of this annual event, Sydney Craft Week is the first and only festival in Sydney dedicated to making by hand. Due to current lockdown requirements, the festival will be primarily digital with several exhibitions able to be viewed in local neighbourhoods through gallery windows.

This year's theme is the 'value of craft'. The program will connect and highlight Greater Sydney creatives with audiences across the city and internationally. There are 40+ events, including 17 workshops and 14 exhibitions as well as talks and digital launches.

Sydney Craft Week is about celebrating creativity and the handmade in all its forms. This festival creates the opportunity for the whole community to engage with craft, experience the benefits of making, and purchase local handmade work.

Festival Director Lisa Cahill said: "While we would love to be celebrating this festival right across Sydney, as we have every year since 2017, it is a testament to the makers, the galleries, the people and the organisations who have worked so hard to create digital experiences that we can all enjoy at home."

"The creative capacity of every person involved in this year's festival is extraordinary. Their resilience and determination ensures that we can have a festival in the midst of a long lockdown."

Access all event information

here: www.sydneycraftweek.com

An initiative of the Australian Design Centre, Sydney Craft Week Festival is supported by the City of Sydney with a festivals and events sponsorship grant.

For images and interviews please contact: Alix Fiveash, Communications and Partnerships Manager email: alix@australiandesigncentre.com or phone: 0402046138.





Theme

In 2021, **the Festival theme is the value of craft.**

“Making is part of our DNA. As humans we have always made things – to survive, to thrive and to enjoy. That value of craft is in our capacity to learn new skills, to make things we need and want as humans and to work out ways to make better things that honour our environment. Making helps us to progress and to slow down. The past 18 months have demonstrated how making with our hands helps us to be mentally healthy and withstand that challenges life has thrown at us. Whatever your definition of craft it is undeniable that it has immense value to people, communities and countries.” said Lisa Cahill, Festival Director

More information on all events is available at www.sydneycraftweek.com

Follow @sydneycraftweek
on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for alerts on
what’s happening and follow
#sydneycraftweek #sydneycraftweek2021.



Festival Highlights

Exhibitions

Fourteen exhibitions in the program will be featured online including [*PREVIEW - Sydney Contemporary*](#) at Sabbia Gallery, two exhibitions [*Trashed*](#) by Shaun Hayes and [*Little Bang*](#) by Margaret Park and Yukiko Nonaka at Stanley Street Gallery and [*Barely Wearable*](#) by Ruth Downes, Manly Art Gallery & Museum.

To celebrate the 80th anniversary of Australia's oldest design centre, Sturt is proud to present [*Sturt: 80 Years*](#)

in the Making.

Also on show are a couple of specially installed window gallery exhibitions. Tapestry Girl Niki McDonald's exhibition *Seemingly Compliant* at Traffic Jam Galleries in North Sydney; Barometer Gallery in Paddington with *Second Look: handmade textiles.*

The Bench Jewellery School Workshop presents the launch of Mill Foundry and jeweller Erin Pearce's exhibition *RECIPROCITY.*

Workshops

Seventeen digital workshops including an online *Contemporary Aboriginal Weaving* course presented by Jaimie Carpenter of Speaking In Colour. Meanwhile *Simply Native Japan* offers hands-on workshops, connecting online with artisans in Japan so you can experience traditional Japanese craftsmanship.

Learn how to *make your own books* with Owl and Lion Bindery and improve your jewellery-making skills by joining the *Virtual Atelier - Jewellery Making at Home* with SquarePeg Studios.

Free workshops and stitch-alongs with *Crafterzoom* session and Crafting in 3D with Bronwen Williams are a festival feature.

Live Podcasts, Meet the Makers and more

Meet the makers from Textiles Sydney online and don't miss Fiona Verity and Julie Nicholson from the podcast Art W**k as they record a *live interview* with contemporary artist, Billy Bain.

Australian Design Centre will be launching their *new podcast* *Object: Stories in contemporary craft and design* also during the Festival.





Festival Producer



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About Australian Design Centre

Established in 1964, ADC is an independent impact organisation based in Sydney. We create opportunities

for people to engage with design, craft and creativity through dynamic and high-quality national touring exhibitions, publishing, digital and educational activities.

ADC's mission is to ignite creativity and innovative ideas through:

Exhibitions – Showcasing the best making and design by Australian creators.

Touring – Bringing the power of making and design to new audiences across Australia.

Learning – Inspiring Australians to use design to transform their future.

ADC is supported by the generosity of our partners and donors, the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments, the New South Wales Government through Create NSW, the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and the City of Sydney. Australian Design Centre is a member of Australian Craft and Design Centres network and the Sydney Culture Network.

ADC is proud to be a creative place located on Gadigal Land.

We acknowledge with respect the traditional owners the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation.

Images: Pippin Drysdale, *Breakaway Series II - Crimson*, 2021. Photo: Robert Frith. Tina Fox, *Gilding the lily* 2021. Photo: Courtesy of the artist. *NSW Wildflowers*, 2021. Photos: Outer Island. Margaret Park, *Mobile Earrings*, 2018. Photo Margaret Park. *Crafterzoom*, 2021. Photo: Courtesy Canada Bay Library. Campbell Hegan, *Vase*, porcelain. Photo: Ashley Mackevicius. Billy Bain in his Studio. Photo: Courtesy of the Artist. Clare Belfrage, *Life time - Grey* 2021. Photo: Pippy Mount. *Speaking in Colour*, Weaving, 2020. Photo: Speaking in Colour.

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