

Crafting Excellence

FORTNUM & MASON
PICCADILLY SINCE 1707

AN EXHIBITION OF CRAFT
6 FEBRUARY TO 29 JULY 2012



Queen Elizabeth
Scholarship Trust

SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE IN BRITISH CRAFTSMANSHIP





THE ROYAL COLLECTION TRUST

Craftsmanship has always been an essential and vital part of British culture. There is an abundance of great craftsmanship all around us, from the stonework of an ancient cathedral to the hand-painted pattern on a bone china plate. Some of it is old, some new, but it is all part of our extraordinary artistic heritage.

However, in this age of mass-production it is increasingly difficult for each new generation of craftsmen and women to learn and practise traditional crafts such as silversmithing, stonemasonry and millinery. As fewer people take up such professions, the skills themselves are in danger of dying out; and the ever-increasing costs of education and of living can make it difficult for many promising artists to study and develop their chosen craft.

In 1990 the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust was established with the sole purpose of protecting these precious skills by providing much-needed grants for craftspeople working in a wide variety of disciplines. Over the past 21 years QEST has invested more than £1.5 million in these talented and dedicated people, making it possible for them to pursue further education or the training with master craftsmen which is often so vital to a budding career.

The crafts that QEST scholars practise are as varied as calligraphy and woodturning, bookbinding and boatbuilding. Their skills are useful as well as decorative; QEST has offered grants to farriers, thatchers and hedge-layers as well as to those who conserve and restore paintings, stonework, clocks, books and musical instruments, often passing on to succeeding generations, skills that might otherwise be lost. These are living crafts and will continue to be so as long as we value and invest in them. They contribute £3 billion annually to the UK economy, are an important part of our industry and create significant employment opportunities throughout the country.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee year is the perfect moment for us to celebrate our artistic heritage by seeking out and encouraging a new generation of craftsmen and women. This living display of the finest work of talented QEST scholars demonstrates vividly the quality and diversity of the craftsmanship which we as a nation and the business world in particular, should support. In this way we can ensure that craft skills remain a vital part of our future as well as our past.

Jonathan Marsden

Director of the Royal Collection

JANE FRYERS MILLINER

Milliner Jane Fryers was awarded the QEST scholarship in 2005 and since then has made a name for herself as a 'couture upcycler,' taking much-loved but now unwearable clothes and turning them into stylish hats. Jane designs and makes hats for film, cabaret and fashion shoots, as well as for special occasion and everyday wear.

Jane Fryers studied millinery at The London College of Fashion, the Kensington & Chelsea College and with Rose Cory, the late HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's milliner.

She uses traditional millinery techniques on a mixture of recycled fabrics and unusual modern materials, from faded silk nightdresses and velvet ballgowns to tanned salmon skins, creating unique and stylish headpieces.

'The Queen of Diamonds' collection has been designed to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's 60 years on the throne, taking influences from post-war fashion and giving them a 21st-century twist, with a sprinkling of sparkles.

