

# innovative CRAFT

## SITTING and LOOKING

An exhibition of contemporary objects curated by Jim Partridge & Liz Walmsley

Dovecot, 10 Infirmery Street, Edinburgh EH1 1LT  
10th July - 4th September



Internationally acclaimed furniture makers Jim Partridge and Liz Walmsley will curate the main summer exhibition 'Sitting and Looking' at Dovecot in Edinburgh from 10th July to 4th September.

'Sitting and Looking' forms part of a series of events curated by leading British makers with funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and the Scottish Arts Council. It is produced through IC:Innovative Craft in partnership with the Dovecot Studios.

The show brings together furniture design, contemporary photography, painting, ceramics and jewellery. Jim Partridge explains: "We haven't selected these people's work to represent a particular theory or storyline. The initial choice was more simple and more visceral than that. These are people whose work inspires us, and we want to share it." Exhibitors include designers El Ultimo Grito and Thomas Heatherwick and photographer Gary Fabian Miller. Jim Partridge and Liz Walmsley will be working on the exhibition design as well as the curatorial content for the show and some of their own award winning

carved oak furniture will be on view.

The pair have worked together designing and making furniture and other functional wood-work for over 20 years. When the partnership began Jim had already established a reputation for his vessels and furniture. Initially the partnership worked on outdoor projects such as footbridges, seats and shelters, the aim being to make work 'which has a strong but quiet presence in the landscape.' This remains true, though in recent commissions they have broadened that landscape to include the built environment resulting in award winning commissions such as an altar for Christchurch Cathedral in Oxford and seats for Compton Verney and Ruthin Crafts Centre. In Scotland their work can be seen at Edinburgh's Botanic Gardens as well as the gardens of Mount Stuart and Ardtornish.

'Sitting and Looking will encourage us all to do just that and perhaps reflect on this quote from Goethe 'thinking is more interesting than knowing. But less interesting than looking.'





**Garry Fabian Miller** is one of the most progressive figures in fine art photography. Born in 1957, he has made exclusively 'camera-less' photographs since the mid 1980s. He works in the darkroom, shining light through coloured glass vessels and over cut-paper shapes to create forms that record directly onto photographic paper.

**El Ultimo Grito** is the creative partnership of Rosario Hurtado and Roberto Feo. El Ultimo Grito's work continuously researches our relationships with objects and culture, exploring them across disciplines in a wide variety of projects which range from interiors to graphics.

**Thomas Heatherwick** is an English designer and artist known for innovative use of engineering and materials in public monuments and sculptures. He heads the Heatherwick Studio, which he founded in 1994.

**Gordon Baldwin** is one of Britain's most distinguished ceramic artists. His distinctive works combine sculptural form with abstract painterly marks. In recognition of his influential career and achievements he was awarded the OBE in 1992 and received an honorary doctorate from the Royal College of Art, London in 2000.

**Rupert Spira** is a studio potter whose best and most

recognizable work contains poems, both self written and by Kathleen Raine the celebrated British poet. The poems are either scratched into the glaze in the graffiti style or written as embossed letters either in a square block or in a single line across the surface of the vessel.

**Nel Linssen** creates dynamic paper jewellery based on years of research into textiles and jewellery. The relationship between wearer and viewer is the essence of Linssen's jewellery, its articulation on the body enhancing and highlighting its colours and textures.

**Ann Sutton** is a weaver, prolific writer and active educator who specializes in the use of computerized looms. A vocal pioneer of new technology, she has ventured into innovative making practices within an arena where traditional processes are usually employed.

**David Poston** is an internationally renowned jeweller working with both conventional metals such as gold and titanium as well as recycled materials.

**Vico Magistretti** was an Italian designer whose amazing range of domestic seating includes the Maralunga sofas. These design classics were originally produced in 1973 and they have been in continuous production ever since.



Page 1 - Top: *Sitting and Looking*, photo by Jim Partridge; Middle: *Ceramics* by Rupert Spira; Bottom: *Bracelet* by David Poston

Page 2 - Top: *Ceramic* by Gordon Baldwin; Bottom: *Maralunga Sofa* by Vico Magistretti and *Coffee Table* by Jim Partridge and Liz Walmsley