

# innovative CRAFT



Right: Julie Blyfield (Australia).

## Making connections

IC:Innovative Craft is a newly established, Edinburgh-based organisation dedicated to celebrating, supporting and making visible the value of craft of international standard in Scotland.

IC will achieve its aims principally by generating – and encouraging others to generate – exhibitions, events, talks and projects that explore and interpret craft in all its forms. It aims to operate at the highest level.

An important first step in the achievement of IC's aims is its evolving relationship with Dovecot Studios. Edinburgh's world-renowned tapestry studio is converting a former Victorian swimming pool in the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town as a new home. In a £5m development, funded by the Alastair Salvesen Trust, Dovecot is also creating a wonderful mixed use building of living, office and exhibition/event

space. IC will have an office in the converted building and will be working with Dovecot Studios to programme lively, cross art-form events there.

Dovecot, the building, will open in early August this year, in time for the 2008 Edinburgh International Festival. Two exhibitions, 'Raising the Bar – 12 international metal artists' (in partnership with Ruthin Craft Centre) and 'Weaving Influences – artists and designers and their Dovecot tapestries from the postwar period' will launch the new venture. There will be talks, events and dinners in the building to celebrate the new centre and

Below: Deirdre Nelson (Photo by Shannon Tofts).



*Continued overleaf*



the two exhibitions.

IC believe that its mission is best demonstrated through tangible activity and the dissemination of that activity to a wide audience, through different means. The quality of the Dovecot spaces, and other spaces IC will be working with throughout the UK and internationally, will allow the company to demonstrate the interest of contemporary objects. Imaginative display techniques, unusual juxtapositions and innovative interpretation will be fundamental to its activity.

IC is also aware of the necessity to reach communities virtually and is investing in a quality interactive website and a good base of IT and New Media equipment to enable it to achieve in-building and off-site interpretation of all its ideas.

IC has received significant funding from the Scottish Arts Council and from the Jerwood Charitable Foundation. The company will be launching an individual giving programme in August from its new base. A block of projects is planned – events, talks, exhibitions – which, if sufficient funding is raised, has the potential to bring together exceptional material and exceptional people to a wide audience.

'History has drawn fault lines dividing practice and theory; technique and expression; craftsman and artist; maker and user; modern society suffers from this historical inheritance.' Richard Sennett, *The Craftsman*, 2008. IC recognises this statement and is committed to building bridges over those fault lines.



From top left:  
Clare Twomey; Robert Foster; Adam Paxton; Frances Priest.