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CRAFTS CELEBRATED

'Makers and Movers' opened at the Crafts Study Centre in December for a one-year showing. The works on show reveal the remarkable contribution to craft practice and development by twelve artists who, since 1970, have also been trustees of the Centre.

The show presents ceramics, textiles, calligraphy and furniture, and features items from both the centre's permanent collection and private and public collections, including the Crafts Council.

Commenting on the exhibition, Professor Simon Olding, Centre Director stated, "It is not uncommon to find that boards of arts and cultural charities purposefully try to encourage practitioners to join their membership. These appointments add authority and distinction to the day-to-day task of leading an organisation. In our case, (craft artists have played a dominant role."

The founder trustees (among them etcher and educationalist Robin Tanner and celebrated textile designer Marianne Straub) took a pivotal role in encouraging the development of the centre's museum collections, aiding significant gifts to the collection through persuasive skills, scrupulous judgement and knowledge of contemporary makers.

When the centre moved to Holburne Museum, Bath, trustees such as Henry Hammond (potter and Head of Ceramics at the West Surrey College of Art and Design) used their skills as well-versed administrators in the politics of academic and educational institutions to advance the centre's cause. Others, such as furniture designer-maker Alan Peters, were knowledgeable of companion craft organisations (in his case, the Devon Guild of Craftsmen). In whatever discipline they practised, each rigorously promoted quality of craft work and the need for excellence in technique and understanding of materials as a basis for practice.

From Robin Tanner through to today's practitioners (Edmund de Waal, Alison Britton and Amelia Uden) the centre has benefited from guidance and advice from some of the UK's most highly-respected and influential craft artists.

Crafts Study Centre, University College for the Creative Arts, Falkner Road, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7DS.

www.csc.ucreative.ac.uk

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