

**Second Sitters - Upholstery: Evolution to Revolution
At The Geffrye Museum of the Home
Tuesday 2 – Sunday 21 May, 10am-5pm. Free**



Second Sitters 'take over' the Geffrye Museum, time lining the evolution and new revolution within the craft of upholstery. Supported by the Arts Council England.

The exhibition features work from UK based upholsterers who are redefining the traditional preconceived role of the upholsterer, combining traditional craft skills with contemporary thinking. Taking the form of a physical timeline the exhibition maps the changes and developments within the craft to include techniques, materials and upholsterers stories. Works will be multi disciplinary, from furniture, to photography, to film, tackling activism, social commentary, materiality and the throwaway culture.

Live working and workshops will run alongside the main exhibition. Confirmed events include demonstrations by SCP's upholstery factory Coakley & Cox Ltd and Second Sitters upholsterers. Workshops include Welsh stool upholstery with Mick Sheridan and chair caning with Rachael South. Panel discussion hosted by Katie Treggiden with makers and industry professionals will look at issues around upholstery, sustainability and the throwaway culture. Follow the Second Sitters eventbrite page for updates.

www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/second-sitters-12873051969

Featured upholsterers will be Jude Dennis, Polly Granville, Alex Law, Miss Pokeno, Mick Sheridan, Rachael South, Hannah Stanton and Electra Read-Dagg.

London Craft Week

Second Sitters is running a series of special events as part of the London Craft Week programme 3-7 May. <http://bit.ly/2na1k3n>

DEMONSTRATION

Demonstration kindly supported by SCP

Saturday 6 May 10-5pm - Free.

SCP's upholstery factory Coakley & Cox Ltd will upholster their Matthew Hilton Balzac chair frame live over the course of the morning. Alongside, Second Sitters will work on identical Balzac frames, their frames a blank canvas to upholster as they want and in their own unique styles, Second Sitters will be upholstering live throughout the day. Completed chairs will be on display for the remainder of the exhibition.

WORKSHOP

Traditional Upholstery Workshop with Mick Sheridan

Saturday 20 May, 10am-5pm. Tickets £100 (including stool and materials). Suitable for complete beginners.

Upholster a milking stool to take home, using traditional materials and techniques. The stools are handmade in reclaimed ash by a local craftsman in Mick Sheridan's village. Each is unique. The workshop is designed for complete beginners but teaches new skills to crafts people at all levels. Take home a splendid little stool that's hand-made from 100% natural materials and made in the traditional way, finished using a selection of Welsh woollen fabrics from Melin Tregwynt.

"The stools are handmade in reclaimed ash by a local craftsman in my village. Each is unique. The workshop is designed for complete beginners but will certainly teach new skills to crafts people at all levels. It's a busy day but I have it on good authority that it's 'very satisfying' and just think, you'll take home a splendid little stool that's hand-made (mainly by you) from 100% natural materials and made in the traditional way."

To book tickets: www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/second-sitters-12873051969

WORKSHOP

Chair caning with Rachael South

Tuesday 9 May, 10am - 5pm Tickets £75 (including materials).

Chair caning can be a great addition to any upholstery/restoration practise.

Suitable for beginners this one day class will be an opportunity for upholsterers to learn the traditional 6 way woven pattern to a professional standard. You'll complete all 6 stages (the whole process) on a small practise frame in one day. As well as learning 6 way pattern Rachael will also get an overview of the materials and history of the craft and its applications.

Rachael is a third generation caner and seatweaver, taught by her father who learned from his father.

To book tickets: www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/second-sitters-12873051969

Panel Discussion, Upholstery: a Sustainable Future

Panel Discussion kindly sponsored by Short Courses at The Cass, London Metropolitan University.

Thursday 18 May – 2.30 - 3.30pm . Tickets £5

Hosted by design journalist Katie Treggiden the panel will consist of makers and industry professionals discussing the issues around design, upholstery, sustainability and the circular economy.

Panelists confirmed so far: Corinne Webb - Frame and Cover. Tim Cox, - Coakley and Cox Ltd.

To book tickets: www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/second-sitters-12873051969

Notes to Editors

- i. Second Sitters is Hannah Stanton and Jude Dennis, both practicing upholsterers. Together they promote independent UK and international upholsterers through publications, exhibitions, collaborative working and education days. www.secondsitters.co.uk For further information or images, please contact Jude and Hannah info@secondsitters.co.uk
- ii. For further information or images, please contact Nancy Loader: 020 7749 6026 or press@geffrye-museum.org.uk
- iii. London Craft Week, now in its third year, will take place from 3-7 May 2017. It showcases exceptional craftsmanship from around the world through a journey-of-discovery programme of over 200 events across the city featuring hidden workshops and unknown makers alongside celebrated masters, famous studios, galleries, shops and luxury brands. www.londoncraftweek.com/about
- iv. The Geffrye Museum explores the home from 1600 to the present day. Evocative displays of London, middle-class living rooms and gardens illustrate homes and home life through the centuries, reflecting changes in society, behaviour, style and taste. The museum is set in beautiful, 18th-century almshouse buildings and gardens in Hoxton, East London. www.geffrye-museum.org.uk

7 April 2017