



Crafts Council

The Future of Craft Education - Speaker Biographies

Developing an anti-racist approach to craft education

Michelle Codrington Rogers teaches citizenship at The Cherwell School in Oxford, where she was once a pupil herself. Michelle, whose parents hail from the Caribbean island of St Vincent, got into teaching citizenship in part due to her love of media, film, and gender and identity politics, which she studied at university. She completed her PGCE at the University of Leicester. Michelle has been a long-time activist and advocate for the decolonisation of the UK curriculum to include not only a better integration of black history, beyond slavery and the British empire, but also to show greater representation of the current black British experience across all subjects.

Emily Gopaul is an artist and primary art education consultant and advocate, with over 15 years experience teaching and leading on art and design in schools. Emily now focuses on consultancy and advocacy in the field of art education; working directly with schools and teachers, designing curricula and training teachers. Emily has worked with BBC Teach, NSEAD, Tate and Artisteacher network creating content, delivering presentations and leading workshops.

James Hunting is the Course Leader of the BA Textile Design pathways at London Metropolitan University (LMU), an artist with a textile focussed practice, and a passionate believer in the individual. He employs Queer theories of identity and recognition within his educational pedagogy and methodology, and promotes disruption and challenge in his teaching. He is involved in the new Education for Social Justice Framework within LMU, and is really only interested in ensuring each student can explore their true selves.

Craft for Recovery in Schools

Michele Gregson is General Secretary of the National Society for Education in Art and Design – the trade union, professional body and learned society for art, craft and design professionals. Michele has worked throughout her career with children, young people and educators in arts education and cultural settings. She firmly believes in the power of the collective – working together to make change through the arts. After working for many years in London and Kent as an art teacher, head of department and school leader, she joined Kent County Council's Advisory Service for Schools, supporting schools in challenging circumstances, then as Adviser for Art & Design, for all Kent schools. Since 2010 she worked as an independent arts consultant, before taking office at NSEAD in January 2019.

Manu Maunganidze is a multi-platform artist, teacher, maker and diversity consultant. Manu works with community groups and young people to inspire deep responses to the environment and situations around them through artistic practice. He is fascinated by the interrelatedness between different cultures and the influences of nature on the things we make.



Sarah Phillips has been a teacher for 19 years. In that time, she has been a Creative Partnerships Co-ordinator, Advanced Skills Teacher and a More Able and Talented Co-ordinator. Sarah is currently joint Head of Faculty for Art & Design at Thomas Tallis School in South East London. Previous to her career in teaching she worked as a prop maker for the English National Opera and as a scenic artist at the English National Ballet.

Craft as a Cross Curricular Bridge

Elizabeth Gaston is an educator, maker and researcher. Currently a Senior Lecturer at Northumbria University teaching on the BA Fashion programme. Her research focusses on using knit thinking as a tool for investigating wider research problems such as sustainability in textile colouration and creative education from primary to tertiary levels.

Jenny Ayrton is an alumni of the CC Hothouse programme, from which she established a successful practise casting glass artworks. In 2018 she joined the Art & Energy Collective. She now loves working collaboratively on community energy projects and creating maverick artworks that encourage us to engage with the world in greener ways. Jenny loves hands-on creative challenges and finding unusual solutions. She's excited about sharing the magic of solar, whilst also communicating the nuts and bolts behind it.

Rose Sinclair is a Design Lecturer (Textiles) in the Design Department at Goldsmiths, University of London, teaching at Postgraduate level. Rose has recently completed her doctoral practice-based research focussing on Black British women, and their crafting and making practices, through the lens of textiles networks such as Dorcas Clubs. Rose uses her practice to discuss the place of migration, identity, race and settlement. For Rose, textiles act as a conduit to also ask questions about Black British textile aesthetics. and uses making as a method to frame new dialogues, explore the use of making as a form of participatory craft practice and public engagement in crafts, especially for marginalised communities.