



NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday 27 November 2024

Metalworker Rachael and glassblower Allister win *Environmental Sustainability Awards* supported by Heritage Crafts and QEST

Metalworker Rachael Colley from Sheffield and glassblower Allister Malcolm from Stourbridge have won *Environmental Sustainability Awards*, through a partnership between Heritage Crafts and the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QEST). They both received £1,000 prizes and specially-commissioned trophies at a presentation at Eltham Palace on Tuesday 26 November 2024.

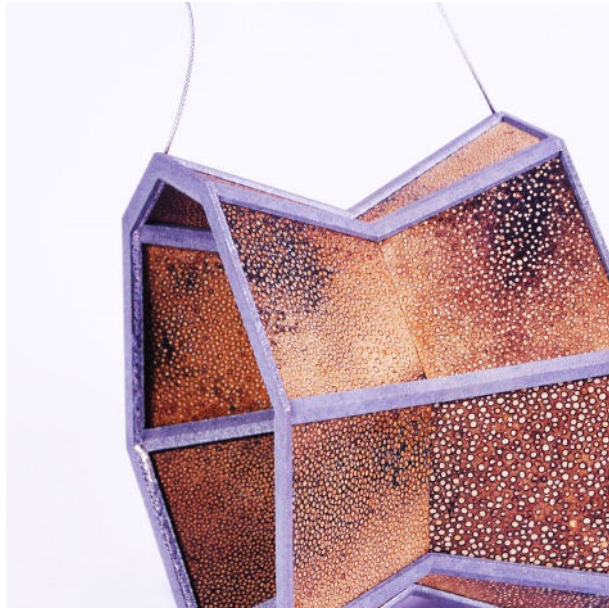


The first award was for a craftsperson or microbusiness demonstrating an innovative approach to environmental sustainability, rarely before seen, that can act as inspiration for others to explore new ways of thinking and working. **Rachael Colley** creates jewellery and ambiguous eating implements that challenge our collective connections with food. Through the re-imagining of historic craft skills and the elevation of food waste as a luxury material, her jewellery questions traditional notions of preciousness and value, while highlighting issues of consumption and waste, transforming citrus peel into a biodegradable luxury leather alternative.

The second award recognised the achievements of a craftsperson or microbusiness that has made measurable progress in transforming the environmental impact of their craft business, through a series of incremental changes and improvements. **Allister Malcolm** is an Honorary Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers due to his commitment to the British glass scene, helping raise hundreds of thousands of pounds for Stourbridge Glass Museums. In the past 12 months he has converted his glass studio from fossil fuels to renewable

electricity, installed three-phase solar power, and worked with a UK manufacturer to enhance an electric furnace design. It is the first time such measures have been combined in this way.

The trophies for these award have been made by pole-lathe wood turner **Geoff Hannis**, one of QEST's emerging makers. They take the form of handled natural-edge bowls made from wych elm, cut from a Mendips hedgerow and destined for firewood. The bases are made from hardwood recycled from the SS Great Britain deck by the Bristol Wood Recycling Project.



Judges for these awards included design consultant and journalist **Roddy Clarke**, independent editor **Kerryn Harper-Cuss**, QEST CEO **Debbie Pocock LVO**, and Heritage Crafts Trustee **Jo Sealy**.

Heritage Crafts was set up 14 years ago as a national charity to support and safeguard heritage crafts skills, and has become well known for its *Red List of Endangered Crafts*, the first research of its kind to rank traditional crafts in the UK by the likelihood they will survive the next generation.

QEST supports the training and education of talented and aspiring craftspeople through traditional college courses, vocational training, apprenticeships and one-to-one training with a master craftsman; helping to support Britain's cultural heritage and sustain vital skills in traditional and contemporary crafts.



Heritage Crafts and QEST believe we can (and must) all play a role in building a sustainable future – small changes by many can amount to big changes for all. They hope that, by sharing their stories, other makers can be inspired to make sustainable changes where possible.

ENDS

Contacts:

- For press information and photographs, contact **Tess Osman**, Grants and Awards Officer – tess@heritagecrafts.org.uk.

Photo captions:

- **Rachael Colley** and **Allister Malcolm**, winners of the 2024 *Environmental Sustainability Awards*. Photo by Robert Wade.
- Work by **Rachael Colley**.
- Work by **Allister Malcolm**.

About Heritage Crafts

Founded in 2009, the Heritage Crafts is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered as the 'Heritage Crafts Association', the advocacy body for traditional heritage crafts. Working in partnership with government and key agencies, it provides a focus for craftspeople, groups, societies and guilds, as well as individuals who care about the loss of traditional crafts skills, and works towards a healthy and sustainable framework for the future. Its aim is to support and promote heritage crafts as a fundamental part of our living heritage.

www.heritagecrafts.org.uk

About the *Red List of Endangered Crafts*

The Red List of Endangered Crafts, created by Heritage Crafts, was the first to rank traditional crafts in the UK by the likelihood they would survive the next generation. The 2023 edition of the Red List, funded by the Pilgrim Trust, assessed 259 crafts to identify those which are at greatest risk of disappearing, of which 62 have been classified as critically endangered, 84 as endangered and 112 as currently viable.

The Red List shows that the craft knowledge, skills and practices that form an important part of our shared cultural heritage are – for a number of reasons – at risk of being lost. Heritage Crafts believes that these cultural assets are as important as unique heritage buildings and ancient beautiful landscapes and could provide future generations with fantastic opportunities to enrich their lives and the lives of others.

<http://redlist.heritagecrafts.org.uk>