

COCKPIT ARTS

The Cockpit Arts Award 2010



Cockpit Arts launches a new award for established designer-makers judged by Bill Amberg

Press Release, London, 2 December 2009: Cockpit Arts is launching a new Award to help an established designer-maker to significantly grow their business, increase their profitability and develop their profile whilst developing creatively. The recipient will be **awarded a place at a Cockpit Arts incubator for a year - worth £4,000**. Cockpit Arts is the only creative business incubator for designer-makers in the UK and a place includes the following benefits:

- A studio space within the creative community of Cockpit Arts (Holborn, WC1 or Deptford, SE8) with access to office facilities and resource centre.
- Business and professional development services including free on-site coaching, a personalised development plan, a Business Development Toolkit, access to finance, workshops and events.
- A range of selling and promotional opportunities including Cockpit Arts Open Studios events.

The Cockpit Arts Award is designed for a talented designer-maker who has been in business for at least three years; already has established markets for their work and a proven track record but is seeking help to take their creative business to the next stage. All craft disciplines are welcome. The judges, including world renowned designer **Bill Amberg**; Vanessa Swann (Cockpit Arts, Chief Executive) and Ellen O'Hara (Cockpit Arts, Head of Business Development) - will be looking for an ambitious individual who demonstrates entrepreneurial spirit and a commitment to grow their business as well as creative excellence and craft skills. Vanessa Swann, Cockpit Arts Chief Executive explains further:

“Our research shows that even the most talented mid-career makers can reach a sticking point, where a boost in support has been critical to their business success. There is currently a plethora of opportunities for emerging designer-makers but a lack of help for those who are trying to accelerate their businesses. This is something we want to address through The Cockpit Arts Award.”

Info & application pack: www.cockpitarts.com, adrian@cockpitarts.com or 020 7419 1959.

Open For Entries: 14 December 2009. Deadline: Monday 1 March 2010.

COCKPIT ARTS

Editors Notes

Cockpit Arts is a social enterprise and the UK's only creative-business incubator for designer-makers. It is a renowned hotbed of creative talent, helping 165 resident designer-makers to grow their businesses and hundreds more through professional development workshops and seminars. www.cockpitarts.com.

The Cockpit Arts Award Judges

Bill Amberg



The Bill Amberg group of companies was launched in 1984 by Bill Amberg, driven by a vision to create beautiful leather goods. Now boasting 26 full-time employees working from their own workshops and design studio in West London, Bill Amberg incorporates an international fashion wholesale business, a specialist design consultancy, a bespoke architectural projects department, a three-store portfolio, a successful online business and retail distribution across the UK and US. www.billamberg.com

Vanessa Swann, Cockpit Arts, Chief Executive



Vanessa was appointed Chief Executive of Cockpit Arts in 2002. Since then she has transformed the organisation from a managed workspace to a creative-business incubator, actively supporting and promoting designer-makers. She has considerable experience of working with, and for, designers and designer-makers and is a spokesperson and commentator on the sector. She was previously the Deputy Director of the Design Museum and Director of the Commissioning Service at Contemporary Applied Arts. Prior to this she headed the RSA Art for Architecture scheme.

Ellen O'Hara, Cockpit Arts, Head of Business Development



Ellen joined the Cockpit team in 2006 and has overall responsibility for Cockpit Arts' business and professional development services. She has worked with over 300 designer-makers to grow their businesses. Ellen is an accredited business coach and holds a degree in Economics from the University of Birmingham and a postgraduate diploma in administrative management. She heads Cockpit Arts' sector research projects and is a commentator on issues relating to designer-maker businesses. Ellen previously worked for The Princes Trust, Arts Council England and Andersen management consultancy.

Images of previous Award winners (Left to right)

Lucy Fergus, Re-silicone (Bellhouse Award recipient), Thomas Von Nordheim and Tamasyn Gambell (NADFAS Award recipients) and Katherine Wardropper (Bell House Award recipient).

For press information and images please contact josie@cockpitarts.com or call 020 7430 2949