

DESIGNERS IN RESIDENCE: MIGRATION

9 SEPTEMBER 2015 – 31 MARCH 2016 AT THE DESIGN MUSEUM

‘This year's Designers in Residence programme invites four designers to respond to the theme of ‘migration’. It can be a reflection of objects or processes that imply movement, or transition, of shifting and cross-fertilising cultures, or of mobility.’

Deyan Sudjic, Design Museum Director

Now in its eighth year, Designers in Residence invites four emerging talents from the world of design to take over a gallery in the Design Museum, using it as a site from which to provoke conversations, actions and thoughts around different conceptions of migration.

The 2015 Designers in Residence are: Chris Green, Stephanie Hornig, Hefin Jones and Alexa Pollmann. Each has responded to the theme with a specially developed project, showcased for the first time in an exhibition at the museum.

Integrating drones: Chris Green explores the potential for drones as a living layer of urban infrastructure. Presenting a vision of the city in which drones have integrated into the everyday, his work considers the design of these autonomous vehicles, and the ways in which they could rewire the future city.

Transforming furniture: Stephanie Hornig questions the meaning of home and the role of furniture in increasingly compact and flexible live/work environments. By designing objects with light architectural materials she proposes new alternatives for domestic furniture, where each piece can adapt to different contexts as the owner moves through life.

Shifting industries: Hefin Jones uses his background in service design to work with ex-mining communities and towns. He encourages his participants to use design thinking to repurpose traditional Welsh culture and heritage, imagining the role they might play in the future of space travel. Seminal characters from the coal mining industry are remodelled for this cosmic future in a series of documents, films and photographs which acknowledges the potential tensions and aspirations associated with an entirely new perspective.

Migrating national identities: Alexa Pollmann's existing design-fiction 'Indivocracy' imagines a radically transformed version of democracy for a socially-networked future. Delivered in form of a political tale, 'Indivocracy' speculates on the cultural highlights of a newly emerged, non-territorial society. For the exhibition Alexa creates new pieces for a national costume - from shoes and gloves to a personal falcon, as well as a new national dance in which visitors can participate. The collaborative installation suggests unsettlement as an increasingly plausible form of existence and showcases motivations for migration, challenging its often negative connotations.

The Designers in Residence programme provides young designers with time and space to research and consider new ways of developing their work. During the four months leading up to the exhibition, residents discuss their projects with established practitioners, industry experts and residency alumni, as well as with the Design Museum's legal, commercial, learning,

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development and curatorial teams. Each resident is offered a bursary, commissioning budget and the production costs required to realise their new commission.

DESIGN MUSEUM, SHAD THAMES, LONDON SE1 2YD

Open: 10.00 -17.45 daily. Last admission: 17.15

Admission prices inclusive of donations:

Adult £13.00, Student/Unemployed £9.75, Child 6-15 yrs £6.60, Child under 6 yrs free

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#designersinresidence

Notes to Editors:

Chris Green is an architectural designer whose work forges new relationships between people, technology and the city. His work explores the future of digitally-connected environments, and the nature of human coexistence with autonomous technologies through the design of interfaces, objects and infrastructures. After graduating with an MA in Architecture from the Royal College of Art and receiving the New London Architecture prize, Chris spent two years as a Research Fellow at MIT Senseable City Lab. His work has been widely publicised, appearing in *Wallpaper**, *Blueprint*, *Dezeen*, *CNN* and the *BBC* amongst others.

Stephanie Hornig is a product designer. Originally from Austria, she studied in Milan and Berlin where she graduated from the University of Arts in 2012. Stephanie took part in numerous exhibitions across Europe, in 2010 her project *Canvas* won an Innovation Award from the German Textile and Fashion Industry Association, in 2013 she was selected for *Design Parade 8* at Villa Noailles in Hyères, France. Stephanie worked as a designer for *Patricia Urquiola* and *Barber & Osgerby* where she developed furniture for internationally renowned brands. She has recently set up her own studio in London and produces objects that are inspired by everyday life and the way we interact with our surroundings.

Hefin Jones is a Welsh born, London-based interdisciplinary designer with a socially focused design practice. He studied for a BA in Design at Goldsmiths, University of London, where he founded the *Welsh Space Campaign* – an initiative which looks at the potential to launch people into outer space through finding a cosmic context for Welsh culture, skills and traditions. This work has featured internationally in publications, talks, and exhibitions. Hefin is a visiting tutor at the Department for Design in Goldsmiths, University of London. He has also worked as a service designer at a non-for-profit social enterprise in London, and as a user experience designer at multinational technology companies.

Alexa Pollmann is intrigued by the potential of garments to become social reactors. She designs scenarios which centre on the human body and society – seeking to challenge the current notion of ‘wear’. Alexa has worked professionally in various fields within the fashion industry and explores the intersection of fashion and technology as Course Leader of the *Wearable Futures MA* at Ravensbourne College. Alexa is also the founder of *Peut-Porter*, a multi-media platform she uses to deliver workshops and to

research fashion narratives. Alexa has received her MA in Design Interactions from the Royal College of Art and had her work reviewed and exhibited internationally.

About Designers in Residence:

The Design Museum continues to support the next generation of designers and creatives with its Designers in Residence programme. This exhibition showcases the work of young designers at the beginning of their careers, recent alumni include Giles Miller, Asif Khan, Bethan Laura Wood and Adam Nathaniel Furman. Last year's Residents were James Christian, Ilona Gaynor, Torsten Sherwood and Patrick Stevenson-Keating. The programme includes a series of events and talks, offering the designers the opportunity to interact and engage with the public, whilst using this platform as a test-bed for ideas, designs and innovations.

Olympus Cameras sponsor statement: 'Why is Olympus involved with Designers in Residence? Simple. Legendary Olympus designer Yoshihisa Maitani redefined the photographic experience with the original PEN F and OM series of film cameras. It is happening again with our digital range and we are delighted to support up and coming design via this new association.'

The **Design Museum** is building the world's leading museum devoted to architecture and design, its work encompasses all elements of design, including fashion, product and graphic design. Since it opened its doors in 1989 the museum has displayed everything from an AK-47 to the Duchess of Cambridge's wedding dress. It has staged over 100 exhibitions, welcomed over five million visitors and showcased the work of some of the world's most celebrated designers including Thomas Heatherwick, Paul Smith, Zaha Hadid, Jonathan Ive, Miuccia Prada, Frank Gehry, Eileen Gray and Dieter Rams.

The Design Museum is relocating from its current home at Shad Thames to the former Commonwealth Institute building in Kensington, West London. The project is expected to be completed by 2016. Leading designer John Pawson will convert the interior of the Commonwealth Institute building to create a new home for the Design Museum giving it three times more space in which to show a wider range of exhibitions and significantly extend its learning programme.

For more information, please visit:

designmuseum.org | newdesignmuseum.tumblr.com