

International symposium

Encounters on the Shop Floor: Embodiment and the Knowledge of the Maker

Hochhauser Auditorium, Victoria and Albert Museum
26-28 June 2019

Encounters on the Shop Floor explores the significance of the knowledge of the maker in learning and cognition and champions its importance in all areas of practice, from art, design and science, medicine and manufacture, challenging the divide between ‘mind’ and ‘hand’ and between ‘intellectual’ and ‘manual’ knowledge and their compartmentalisation.

We are concerned that the lack of recognition of the potential of the knowledge intrinsic in making and of learning by doing is a major area of ‘wastefulness’ and a significant factor – nationally and globally – in rising levels of educational underperformance, social and economic inequality and of a lack of socially and environmentally progressive industrial practice.

With this symposium we aim to develop strategies for recognising, showcasing and championing the value and usability of this knowledge within learning, the workplace and society and to propose a productive way forward. The symposium will offer a point of entry into the knowledge of maker from multiple disciplinary perspectives and different contexts of practice, and address these themes:

- Challenging the Body/Mind Divide
- The Thinking Hand: Histories and Practices
- Making, Knowing
- Making Futures
- The Thinking Hand in Science and Medicine
- Thinking with the Body: Learning by Making and Doing

The symposium stems from *Encounters on the Shop Floor*, a V&A Research Institute Research project generously supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The symposium programme will be made available shortly on the project page and bookings will open on the V&A’s What’s On website soon.

