

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



26-28 June 2019, Hochhauser Auditorium, V&A



The symposium stems from an ongoing research project, *Encounters on the Shop Floor*, involving a collaboration between the V&A, Imperial College London, University College London (UCL) and a group of artists, makers and performers. The project operates under the aegis of the V&A Research Institute (VARI), generously supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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 are 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 practices.

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 the maker from multiple disciplinary perspectives and different contexts of practice and set the foundations for a manifesto proposal.

DAY 1 WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE

- 10.00 Registration and coffee
10.15 **Tristram Hunt** (V&A) *Welcome and opening remarks*
10.30 **Marta Ajmar** (V&A Research Institute) and **Roger Kneebone** (Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College London) *Introduction*

Challenging the Body/Mind Divide I

- 11.00 **Gunther Kress** (Institute of Education, UCL) *"Thinking without a brain". Some comments on the distracting notion of embodiment. A part autobiographical / part theoretical account of a recurring issue*
11.30 **Mark Johnson** (Philosophy Department, University of Oregon) *Embodied Mind, Meaning, and Thought*
12.00 Q&A and discussion
12.30 Break

Challenging the Body/Mind Divide II

- 13.15 **Paul Craddock** (Film Maker and Cultural Historian, University College London and V&A Research Institute) *Filming for the Encounters Project*
13.30 **Julian Stair** (Potter and Independent Scholar) and **Pétur Jónasson** (Royal College of Music) *Encounters Project: Investigating Touch*
14.00 **Carey Jewitt** (Institute of Education, UCL) *In-Touch: Exploring touch through touchy, felt-experiences and processes of making*
14.30 Break
14.45 **Tamar Makin** and **Danielle Clode** (Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, UCL) *How the Body and the Brain Adapt to Material Change: An interdisciplinary perspective from neuroscience and design*
15.15 **Aldo Faisal** (Brain and Behaviour Lab, Imperial College London) *Putting the Human back into the Loop with Neurotechnology*
15.45 Q&A and discussion
16.15 Hands-on Demonstrations

The Thinking Hand: Histories and Practices

- 17.00 **Simona Valeriani** (V&A Research Institute) *Embodying Ideas: designs, models and architecture*
17.30 **Haidy Geismar** (Department of Anthropology, UCL) and **Pip Laurenson** (Research Department, Tate and Maastricht University) *Encounters Project: Obsolescence, Precarity, Persistence: The social world of embodied knowledge in contemporary art photography*
18.00 **Olivia Horsfall Turner** (Design, Architecture and Digital, V&A) *Using the senses in curatorial practice*
18.30 Q&A and discussion

DAY 2 THURSDAY 27 JUNE

10.00 Registration and coffee

Making, Knowing

10.15 **Tim Ingold** (Department of Anthropology, University of Aberdeen) *Making Growing Learning*

10.45 **Pamela Smith** (Department of History, Columbia University) *The Making and Knowing Project*

11.15 Q&A and discussion

11.45 Break

Making Futures I: The Thinking Hand in Industry

12.00 Conversation with **Peter Zinck** (Petersen and Tegl, Denmark)

12.45 Break

Making Futures II: Making for a Purpose

13.45 **Tomas Diez** (Fab Academy, Fab Foundation, Fab Lab Barcelona), **Zoe Laughlin** (Institute of Making, UCL), **Daniel Charny** (Kingston School of Art and FixEd)

15.15 Q&A and discussion

15.45 Break

The Thinking Hand in Science and Medicine

16.15 **Conversation 1: Science**

Roger Kneebone (Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College London), **Alan Spivey** (Faculty of Chemistry, Imperial College London) and **Luke Delmas** (Faculty of Chemistry, Imperial College London), **Steven Ramsey** (Independent Craftsman)

17.00 **Conversation 2: Medicine**

Roger Kneebone (Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College London), **Chris Peters** (Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College London), **Fleur Oakes** (Three-Dimensional Embroiderer and Lacemaker), **Will Houstoun** (Magician, Imperial College, RCM Centre for Performance Science), **Rachel Warr** (Puppeteer and Dramaturg)

17.30 Q&A and discussion

18.00 Hands-on Demonstrations

19.15 Reception

10.00 Registration and coffee

Thinking with the Body: Learning by Making and Doing I

10.15 **Helen Charman** (Learning and National Programmes V&A) *[Title tbc]*

10.45 **Andrew Brewerton** (Plymouth College of Art) *Making Learning*

11.15 **Jackie Marsh** (School of Education, Sheffield University) *Makerspaces in Formal and Non-Formal Learning Spaces: Principles of practice*

11.45 Q&A and discussion

12.15 Break

Thinking with the Body: Learning by Making and Doing II

13.15 **Katharine Cowan** (formerly V&A Research Institute/Institute of Education, UCL) and **Rebecca Goozee** (formerly V&A Research Institute) *Valuing Embodied Ways of Knowing: Multimodal perspectives on teaching and learning in schools and museums*

13.45 **Sara Price** (Institute of Education, UCL) *Embodying Science: Meaning making around interactions in informal science settings*

14.15 **David Kirsh** (Cognitive Science Department, University of California, San Diego) *How We Use Our Bodies to Think*

14.45 Q&A and discussion

15.15 Break

15.45 **Roundtable and discussion: Where to now?**

17.00 Symposium ends

A more detailed programme will follow shortly. The programme is subject to change without warning.

To find out more about *Encounters on the Shop Floor* visit the [project page](#).

Images:

- Julian Stair at work (detail)

- Third Thumb. Danielle Clode, Designer & Research Assistant (Plasticity Laboratory, Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, University College London)