

Speaker Information

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Robert Foster – F!NK & Co

Many people recognise F!NK & Co for the distinctive F!NK water jug which has been labelled as an iconic work of Australian design. Since developing this piece over 15 years ago, F!NK's innovative range has extended to over 24 products that are distributed throughout the world. F!NK designs have been recognised by Australian and international design museums for their visual appeal and design innovation.

F!NK was established in 1993 by Robert Foster, who trained as a silversmith at the Australian National University School of Art (Canberra). Foster created F!NK as a business to support and extend his craft practice, translating the principles and processes of hand-making into a successful and challenging design model.

F!NK & Co has developed a tradition of working with a number of different designers and object makers, and has mentored many young Australian designers. Foster believes in the importance of collaboration, both in raising the profile and experience of young designers and in bringing fresh ideas and energy to F!NK & Co.
www.finkdesign.com

Gretel Harrison – F!NK & Co

In 1996 Gretel Harrison joined Robert Foster as a director of F!NK & Co, taking responsibility for the company's innovative marketing, sales and distribution strategy. Her skills and expertise in the field of marketing, financial and business management compliments their business partnership. She has become an instrumental part of developing the design programme at F!NK & Co, taking her understanding of the market and feeding this into the F!NK & Co product range. Harrison has over 15 years experience in the field of marketing, working in the commercial sector and federal government. She has also worked in a consultancy capacity for clients such as Price Waterhouse Coopers.

Chris Jackson – Northwards Design Studio / Massey University

Chris Jackson is a British designer who is currently a lecturer in Industrial Design at Massey University, Wellington. Since establishing Northwards Design Studio in 2002, Jackson has been involved with an array of projects involving some of the world's leading design companies. Jackson credits working collaboratively as an important part of his practice, and creative design partnerships have resulted in some of his most successful projects. Jackson has received critical acclaim for a number of recent projects, including his *Pythagoras* stool (2009) and the ongoing *Ten* project.
www.northwards-design.co.uk

Candywhistle

Candywhistle, established in 2005 by Robbie Grieg, Craig Bond and Stuart Barr is a Wellington-based design practice that operates across a variety of platforms. Recent work has included furniture, interior, exhibition and event design. The practice is driven by a strong experimental ethic, exploring the possibilities presented by new processes, materials and ideas. The designers involved focus on an output that is conceptually challenging, culturally relevant and aesthetically engaging.
www.candywhistle.co.nz

David Trubridge

David Trubridge has risen to international prominence as a New Zealand furniture designer, committed to exploring ideas surrounding sustainability and design. He has developed a successful manufacturing workshop in Hawke's Bay, from which his work is produced and dispatched worldwide. Trubridge regularly exhibits internationally and has received many significant acknowledgements for his innovative designs. In 2007 he received New Zealand's most prestigious design honour – the John Britten design award.
www.davidtrubridge.com

Genevieve Packer

Genevieve Packer is a Wellington-based textile designer-maker, craft enthusiast and educator. Her practice employs a multi-disciplinary approach to contemporary craft-based design, including a range of materials, hands-on and technological processes and techniques. Ongoing research interests include New Zealand's national identity and material culture, conceptual recycling, and overlooked things in the everyday. Alongside this, she applies her skills to anything that grabs her attention, from film costume work, to commercial commissions, to cross-disciplinary collaborations.
www.genevievepacker.com

Lucy Hammonds

Lucy Hammonds is the curator of design collections at Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery, Napier. Her research interests include 20th Century New Zealand Design, craft and applied art practice and fashion history. She is presenting co-authoring a book exploring fashion design in New Zealand from 1940 to the present, to be published in late 2010.

Balance Panellists

To conclude the Balance programme our group of experts will discuss the ideas and issues raised over the day. Chaired by HB MAG director and design historian Douglas Lloyd Jenkins, and including Robert Foster, Katy Wallace and some special guests to be announced in the lead up to the weekend.