

## Satellites Programme

Katie Schwab

### *Together in a Room*

20.02.16 – 24.04.16

*Together in a Room* is an exhibition of new work by Glasgow based artist Katie Schwab, developed as part of Satellites Programme 2016.

Katie's practice incorporates textiles, video, ceramics and functional furniture brought together as installations. *Together in a Room* is the culmination of research undertaken by Katie as Associate Producer for Satellites Programme 2016, which explores the politics of, and relationships between, craft, design, housing and education.

During her time with Collective, Katie has developed her interest in the relationships built between people, shapes, colours and histories within an interior environment. Throughout the research phase of Katie's project she has visited spaces associated with forms of 20th and 21st century domestic design and craft education, including homes, museums, showrooms, schools and colleges – all of which have informed the production of *Together in a Room*.

Inspired by storefront displays and 1960's Lundby dolls house design, all elements in the gallery have been carefully considered to make an environment which encompasses a new embroidery, film work and handmade stools. All works in the exhibition have been made simultaneously, meaning that shapes, lines, rhythms and colours are echoed throughout the different mediums.

Central to *Together in a Room* is the large embroidery titled *Sampler*. This work features an improvised composition of stitches, patterns and colours referencing different stitch sample books. Katie has combined sewing methods drawn from *29 Embroidery Stitches*, a manual owned by the artist's Grandmother, with shapes and patterns influenced by the work of female artists and designers including Enid Marx, Peggy Angus and Sonia Delaunay.

# COLLECTIVE

The patterns, colours and shapes of the embroidery have provided a loose score to structure a new film – *Dedicated to my great teachers*. The title and format of the film take inspiration from the dedication page and typewriter drawings in *On Weaving* by Anni Albers. *Dedicated to my great teachers* combines hand-painted 16mm film; footage of the Arne Jacobsen-designed St Catherine's College, Oxford; text from the memoirs of the artist's Grandmother; and an interview with Madeleine Ladell from Phoenix Pottery, an independent ceramics studio set up as a direct consequence of local government cuts to adult education. With her flatmate Simon Worthington, Katie has designed and made ten stools to sit on and watch the film. The design of the stools alludes to post war products made to be mass-produced while still maintaining a look of being hand-made. The shape of the stool tops comes from the *Kivet* design (translated as 'Stones') by Finnish design house Marimekko, and the profile is drawn from Arne Jacobsen's *Dot* stool. The stools are placed for people to gather together to talk, watch and learn. They will also be used for an event programmed by Katie: a screening of *Playtime* by Jacques Tati.

Katie Schwab graduated from the MFA programme at the Glasgow School of Art in 2015. Recent exhibitions and projects include: *Bloomberg New Contemporaries*, Backlit, Nottingham and ICA, London; *My love is like a red red rose*. *Art in Scotland from 18th to 21st Century*, Musée du Château des ducs de Wurtemberg, Montbéliard; *Fresh, British Ceramics Biennial*, The Original Spode Factory Site, Stoke-on-Trent; *The Grind*, Voidoidarchive, Glasgow and *Project Visible*, Tate Modern. Katie has undertaken the graduate residency at Hospitalfield, Arbroath and is the recipient of the Glasgow Sculpture Studios MFA Graduate Fellowship, 2015–16.

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Dedicated to my great teachers, the weavers of ancient Peru.<sup>i</sup>

[Door opening. Steps] *And we are going to start in here.*<sup>ii</sup>

Opening on 9th July 1934, it was not only the first modernist block of flats in Britain, but also the home of notable émigrés, including Walter Gropius, founder of the Bauhaus, Marcel Breuer, designer of modernist furniture, and László Maholy-Nagy, head teacher of art at the Bauhaus school.<sup>iii</sup>

*It's about eight stories I think.*

*The floor above, I think there's a business there; a nursery, a crèche.*<sup>iv</sup>

*Those are original, those chairs.*<sup>v</sup>

In 1936 we moved to Berlin... I started Art School at the “Contempora” located at Emerstr. 42—44, which was quite close to our apartment. That school was on the top floor, stretching over several buildings, with large balconies running along all classrooms. During the first year I had to do a general art course, but after that I specialised in Textile-Design.<sup>vi</sup>

*It used to be run by a tenant management association.*

*It was taken over by Islington council last year.*<sup>vii</sup>

The communal buildings were placed centre stage by Jacobsen, as he wanted these meeting places to be at the heart of the educational body.<sup>viii</sup>

*She was very, very modern in design.*<sup>ix</sup>

Is there a well-controlled and clearly understandable hierarchy of public and private spaces?

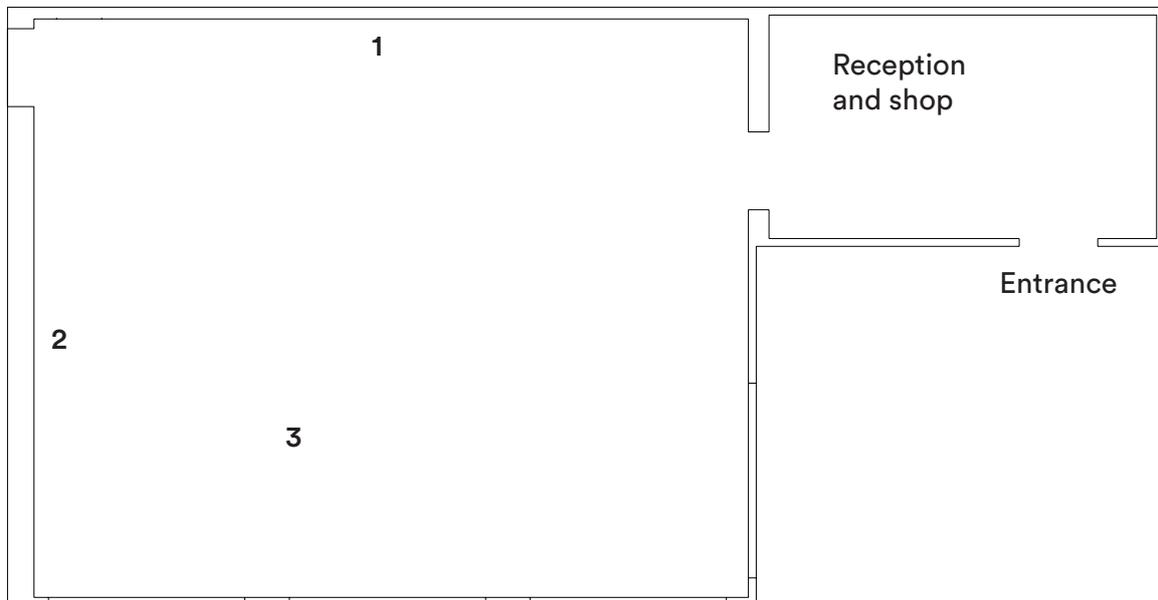
Is there scope for the users/occupants to make their own changes and ‘personalize’ the building?<sup>x</sup>

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## Endnotes

- i. Anni Albers, *On Weaving*, (London: Studio Vista Publishers, 1974)
- ii. Caroline, tour guide at the home of Carl and Karin Larsson, Lilla Hyttnäs, Sundborn, Sweden, 2015
- iii. Skandium, ‘London’s Isokon Building has opened a gallery to tell its rich history as the home of modernist designers, writers and spies’, the Skandium blog, URL: <http://www.skandium.com/blog/archives/2518> (17/02/2016)
- iv. Madeleine Ladell, interview, Phoenix Pottery, London, 2015
- v. Becky Lewin, tour of St Catherine’s College, Oxford, 2015
- vi. Mia Schwab, memoir, London, 1999

- vii. Madeleine Ladell, interview, Phoenix Pottery, London, 2015
- viii. Skandium, ‘Celebrating St Catherine’s College’, the Skandium blog, 2012, URL: <http://www.skandium.com/blog/archives/1187> (17/02/2016)
- ix. Caroline, tour guide at the home of Carl and Karin Larsson, Lilla Hyttnäs, Sundborn, Sweden, 2015
- x. Eileen Adams and Colin Ward, ‘Building Appraisal: Interface’ in *Art and the Built Environment*, (Essex: Longman for the Schools Council, 1982), p. 61
- xi. Anni Albers, ‘Study made on the typewriter’ in *On Weaving*, (London: Studio Vista Publishers, 1974)



*Together in a Room*  
Vinyl, household paint

1. *Dedicated to my great teachers* (Becky Lewin, St Catherine's College, Oxford, Madeleine Ladell, Phoenix Pottery, London, Mia Schwab, London), HD video and hand-painted 16mm film transferred to HD, 10 mins 14 secs, 2016.

2. *Sampler*, hessian, Grandma's wool, cotton thread, pine, sapele, 2016.

3. *Ten stools made with Simon*, Douglas fir, steel, wood stain, PVC, 2016.

Thanks: Madeleine Ladell, Becky Lewin, Mia Schwab, Simon Worthington, Glasgow Sculpture Studios, Glasgow Masters Series, Hospitalfield Arts, RSA John Kinross Scholarship, and everyone at 58.

**Screening, 17.03.16, 6pm**

Jacques Tati, *Playtime*, 2hrs 4mins, 1967  
*Playtime* features an enormous, specially constructed set and background stage, known as 'Tativille'. In *Playtime*, Tati's character, M. Hulot, and a group of American tourists attempt to navigate a futuristic Paris constructed of straight lines, modernist glass and steel high-rise buildings, multi-lane roadways, and cold, artificial furnishings.

*Together in a Room* is part of Satellites Programme, Collective's development programme for emergent artists based in Scotland. Satellites Programme 2016 includes three solo-presentations by selected artists Hamish Young, Jennifer Bailey and Mark Bleakley, and two projects by Associate Producers Katie Schwab and Anastasia Philimonos. The programme has been developed to facilitate artists at this pivotal point in their career through peer review, professional development, mentoring, exhibitions and events.

**Collective** is a contemporary visual art organisation that delivers an exciting and ambitious programme of new exhibitions, commissions and off-site projects. Collective produces major new work by Scotland based and international artists who are at a pivotal stage in their development.

[www.collectivegallery.net](http://www.collectivegallery.net)



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