

Bright ideas

New Designers is supported by many facets of the creative industries who regard this event as the lifeblood for fresh ideas and talent. Longstanding sponsors include Hallmark Cards Plc, The Dyson Foundation, DKNY, Tigerprint, The Textile Society, The Goldsmiths Company and in 2006 there are new awards presented by Atelier (Abigail Ahern); Cole & Sons; Global Inventions, Contemporary Applied Arts and Metropolitan Works. In addition to financial prizes, many of the awards also offer invaluable work experience or professional manufacturing facilities.

The success of the exhibition is credited to the high quality of the young designers. It is expected that this year's event will draw an audience of over 14,000 visitors both consumer and trade. Over 4,000 graduate designers will take part this year representing 20 creative disciplines, here we take a snapshot of a very small number of the textile work.

Part of the show is the One Year On showcase which presents work by approximately 50 selected designer makers, who have established businesses in the past 12 months. All of the work on display is available to purchase and commissions are welcomed.

Debra Bean, part of the 'one year on' show
Inspiration: A fire swept through Debra's home weeks before her degree show meaning she lost almost all her work. The chandeliers that hung in her home were carbonised by the fire, these became her inspiration. Uses synthetic fabrics for window applications, silk satins, cotton satins and raw linen for upholstery and cushions. Also creating a paper backed linen wallpaper.



New Designers also has an online website with a dedicated design directory to promote young professional designers. The website has proved to be an invaluable online resource for editors, commissioning architects, fashion houses, interior designers, graphic and photography project managers.

Realising that design education doesn't stop with a degree, New Designers also hosts a series of seminars and practical workshops. The website provides more information on the show and seminars www.newdesigners.com. For the Design Directory go to www.newdesignersonline.co.uk

The show runs in two parts, Part 1 from the 29 June to 2 July 2006 covers; Contemporary Applied Arts; Ceramics and Glass; Jewellery and Precious Metalwork; Fashion, Textiles and Accessories.

Part 2 from 6 July to 9 July covers; Product Design; Furniture Design; Illustration and Animation; Graphic and Interactive Media; Photography and Spatial Design (Architectural Design, Interior Design, Model making and Theatre Design).

Giving students the opportunity to showcase their work in a single exhibition is a fantastic idea, not only exposing the students and young designers to a potential employer but also giving the industry the opportunity to find new talent. Now in its 21st year the New Designers exhibition in London, UK does just this.

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