

Edward Marshall Trust Award 2012-14

*David Murphy and Catherine Aitken*



Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop



## The Edward Marshall Trust Award 2012-14

Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop is the recipient of The Edward Marshall Trust Award 2012 of £50,000. This prestigious biennial award provides significant funding towards projects which enhance and promote contemporary design and which also have clear public benefit.

### Design Brief - Summary

Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop commissioned Catherine Aitken and David Murphy to create furniture and ceramic designs for the new Sculpture Centre in Newhaven, Edinburgh which has been designed by award-winning architects, Sutherland Hussey. A key element in the brief is to create designs which can be manufactured at ESW's new workshops. The designers have been asked to work in consultation with ESW's users and experienced technical team to produce the furniture and ceramics in-house. ESW's artistic policy states no permanent artworks should be on show in order to avoid defining or restricting the activities within. The team, therefore, have developed a subtle design rationale for the furniture and fittings throughout the building. The goal is a set of designs, which simply declares the special ethos of the place and its activities.

### Scope:

ESW's new facilities are being developed in two stages.

Phase 1: The Bill Scott Sculpture Centre opened in June 2012.

Phase 2: The Creative Laboratories will open in June 2014. On completion, there will be a variety of public, work and meeting spaces both internal and external across the new premises and a café, all of which will allow a different method of public engagement with ESW.

### Designers have considered:

- flexibility of use for indoors or out
- ease of movement
- robust functionality and an engagement with materials to reflect the fact that the Sculpture Workshop is a place for production although it may also be used for temporary exhibitions or events.
- The ceramic designs may include bespoke items and designs applied to standard plates, cups, bowls and servers for the café and meeting rooms.



## WORK IN PROGRESS

Edward Marshall Trust / Edinburgh Sculpture Workshops Design Commission

*"At the end of last year we were selected for the Edward Marshall Trust Design Commission. We have since begun designing and developing a range of furniture for use in both the Sculpture Workshops and Creative Laboratories buildings.*

*From the beginning we were keen to establish a committed presence on site, and utilise the ESW workshops as a space of creativity as well as production, refining and resolving designs with the support of the ESW technicians.*

*We have been looking to establish a concise, carefully selected material palette, one that reflects both the variety of sculptural processes offered by ESW and their own visual language.*

*It is our intention to develop a clear rationale and a consistent identity that can be interpreted and deployed in a variety of ways. Working with an industrial framework that will withstand use and fit appropriately with the building, we are adding warmth and unique character through detailing, colour and material combinations.*

*You can keep up to date with our progress via the blog at <http://edinburghsculpture.org/blog>"*

Catherine Aitken (designer) and David Murphy (sculptor). 2013

All Images ESW-EMT work in progress. Photographer credit Gordon Burniston



## CATHERINE AITKEN

Catherine Aitken designs furniture and interior products. With a relationship to pattern, her functional design outcomes frequently leave space for arranging and rearranging. A singular material does not define her practice - typically she works with wood, textile and ceramic, playing with combinations and imposing limitation during the development process.

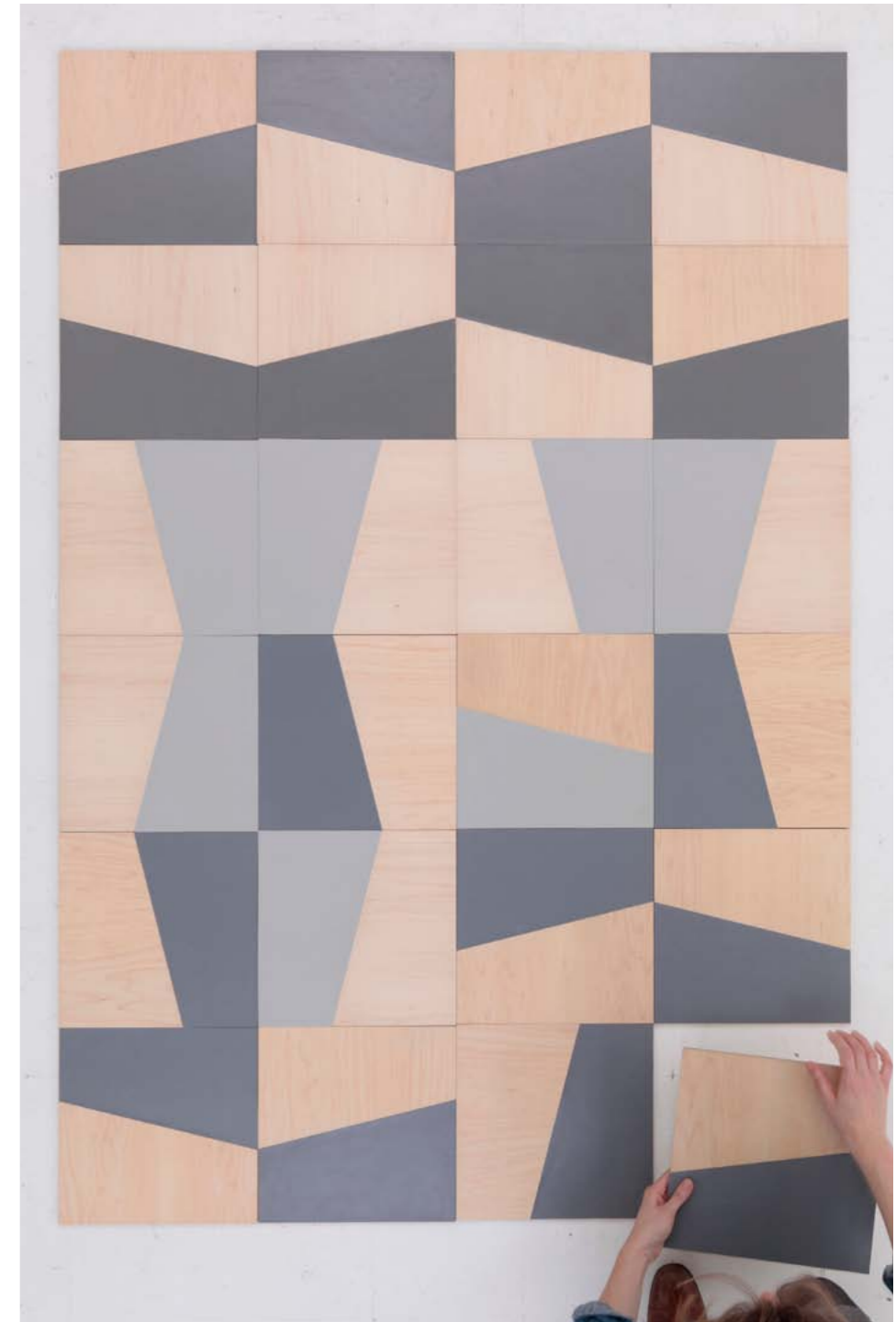
Inspired by the hands-on processes of textiles, the discipline in which she trained, she often tests ideas real-scale working to reveal the innate qualities of her chosen material. Transition, fluidity and movement have become important to her work she returns time and again to the moments that exist between open and closed, producing products that quietly encourage interaction and establish a poetic relationship with their surrounding environment.



Right: Material Palette 2010, Catherine Aitken

Born in Edinburgh in 1983 Catherine Aitken now lives and works in London. She studied at Edinburgh's Telford College, Glasgow School of Art and most recently at the Royal College of Art, London from where she graduated in 2011 with a Masters in Textiles. Recent exhibitions include Between Two, Space FiftyFourArchitecture, London (2010); RCA Intent, Ventura Lambrate, Milan (2010); Soft Edges, Dutch Design Week, Eindhoven (2011); Understory, Brompton Design District, London (2012) and Fade, Normann Copenhagen Flagship Store, Copenhagen (2012). She is a recent recipient of the Cove Park Crafts Residency (2012), the Time To Design - new talent award (2012) and the Crafts Council Hothouse 3 programme (2013).

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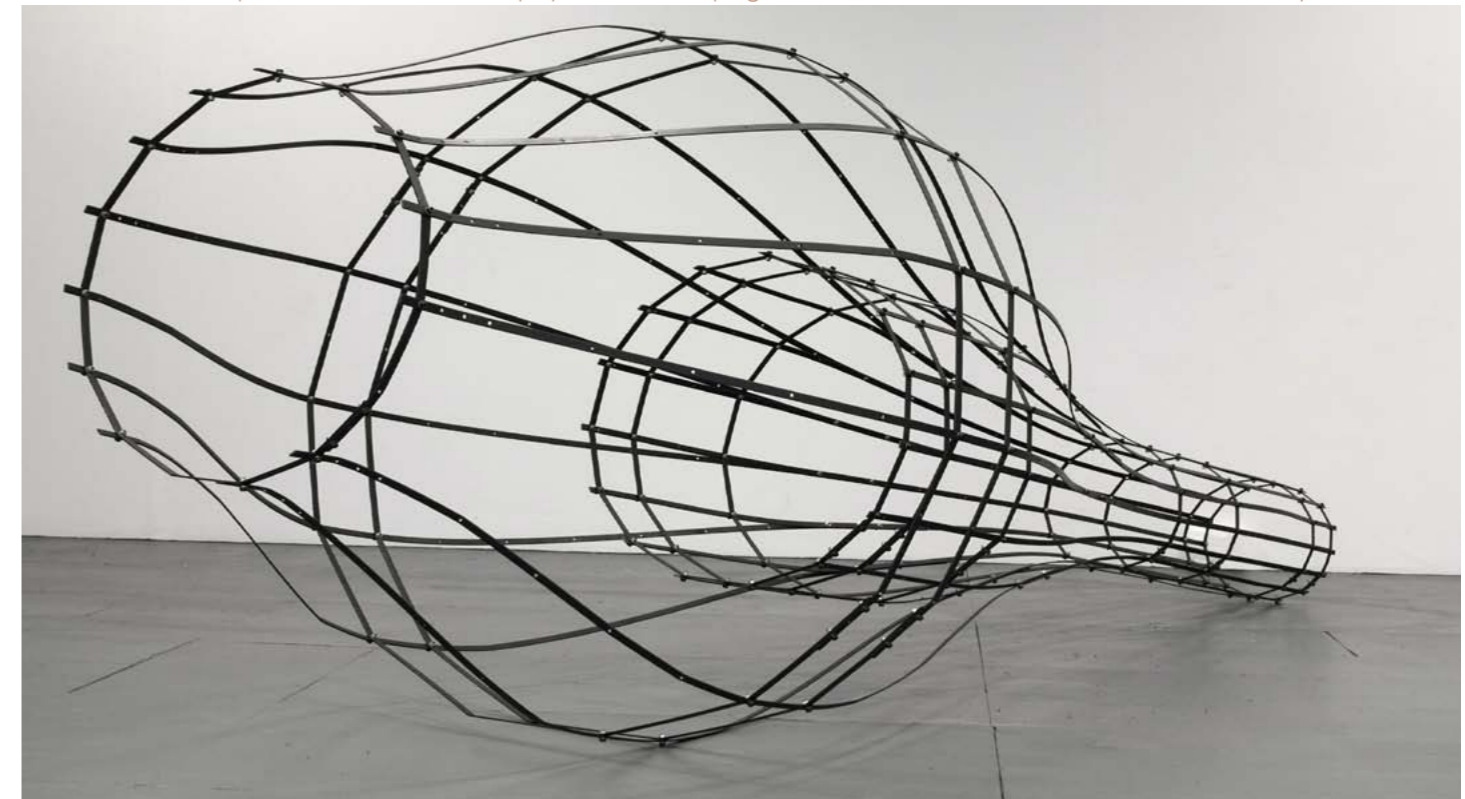
Above: Two by Two, plywood, rubber, 2011, Catherine Aitken

## DAVID MURPHY

Through a variety of materials and processes and on varying scales David Murphy's sculptural practice takes up aspects of inherently human activity that begin with the hand. From architecture to anthropology, tool making to trade-routes, specific processes are reworked and represented as part of a larger imaginary.

Born in Newcastle Upon Tyne in 1983 David Murphy now lives and works in London. He studied at Newcastle College and the Glasgow School of Art from where he graduated in 2006 with a BA in Sculpture. He has exhibited widely both nationally and internationally. Recent exhibitions include: Jerwood Drawing Prize (2010); Almost Island, CoExist Arts, Southend on Sea (2011); Anschlüssel, Fruehsorge Contemporary Drawings, Berlin (2011); Aggregate!, E:vent Gallery, London (2011), and Young English Sculptors, Fundaziun Not Vital, Ardez, Switzerland (2012); Zeichnung ohne Zeichnung, Galerie Christian Ehrentraut, Berlin. He exhibited at ARTPIE / TÜYAP Art Fair Istanbul (2011), and was artist in residence at M4 Gastatelier, Amsterdam, Netherlands (2010), Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop, Scotland (2010), and Atelier Concorde, Lisbon, Portugal (2012). He is recent recipient of the ACME Hackney Studio Residency (2012-2014).

left and below: Traps, mild steel, David Murphy, 2011. Back page: Visualisation creative labs. Sutherland Hussey Architects.





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