

PRESENTERS AND EXPERTS

Public Lectures and Trainings:



LD
Durar

ASSAAD AWAD /MULTIDISCIPLINARY ARTIST/ SPAIN

14 years in the Advertising industry pushed Assaad Awad out of the bubble landing him in his own workshop /atelier in Madrid. It was an extraordinary move as his peers described. His handcrafted pieces were first showcased by the likes of Madonna, Lady Gaga and Thierry Mugler in addition to numerous editorial appearances in Vogue...

His work is known to be Artesian & Vanguardist, respecting the quality and execution of every piece, designing luxury leatherworks, industrial, accessories and jewellery.



SAMER YAMANI /CULTURAL MANAGER MULTIDISCIPLINARY DESIGNER/ SPAIN

Samer built his experience as a multidisciplinary designer working on wide range of mediums and projects, he specialized in cultural projects designs such as exhibition design and design-art installations, collaborating with prestigious artists and designers, In 2009 he founded Creative Dialogue, an independent non-profit organization based in Barcelona, specialized in promoting and supporting the cultural and creative industries with the aim of contributing to a sustainable socio-economic development through programs that had been implemented in 17 cities around MENA region, Asia and EU



byHand
consulting

KAREN GIBBS /CRAFTS MARKETING EXPERT/ USA

Since 1994, Karen Gibbs has dedicated her career to programs, organizations and enterprises focused on creating and expanding markets for artisans and handmade products. In her current role as President of ByHand Consulting, Karen designs and manages handcraft-focused export marketing and business development programs. Karen is Co-Director of Artisan Partners @ Aspen. Karen's relationships with artisans and buyers are extensive; she has traveled to over 40 countries and maintains a network of 2,000+ retail and wholesale buyers of handmade products. Karen serves as a Board Member of Hand/Eye Fund and currently resides in Boulder, CO.

Public Presentations

STACY SINDLINGER (USA)

Stacy is a founder and director of the Lindblad/National Geographic Artisan Fund, she works at the point where conservation, sustainability, design, and economic empowerment meet; in over 50 countries she provides support through natural resource management, training, equipment, and market development advice to artisans. Stacy was Vice President at Aid To Artisans, the world's largest artisan/craft development non-profit.

PALOMA SUAREZ GORDILLO (UK)

Founder of the community project - April House in Georgia, Organizer of Ancient Crafts of Georgia Tour, Founder of a not for profit company "This Earth Gathering" working mainly with women, the arts and creativity.

EKATERINA SISFONTES (SWEDEN)

Ekaterina Sisfontes is presenting a new chapter in accessory design. 2000 she started a business under her own logo "SisKa Design" based in Stockholm, Sweden. She approached the highest level of Swedish jewellery designers working for National Museum of Sweden making three of their own collections. Her items were sold at many museum shops and art galleries around the world. The jewels made by Ekaterina are minimalist, geometric and always have a touch of originality and reflect the purity of Nordic art. For many years she been teaching jewellery design has influenced and many young jewellers.

TRACY CLARK (UK)

Tracey has over 30 years' experience within the arts and cultural sectors having recently worked as Talent Development Manager at the Crafts Council, the national development agency for contemporary craft in the UK. Leading on "Injection" business development for mid-career and established makers Tracey delivered a range of training and support alongside her role as Development Director for NN Contemporary Arts, an independent visual arts organisation. Over the last 8 years Tracey has worked with artists, makers and designers through a range of workshop and 1-2-1 based support enabling participants to focus and or review their creative activities to build strong businesses.

SIMON MACHABELI (GEORGIA)

Simon Machabeli's artistic work is focused on the costume and fashion design. He successfully works on different creative projects in film industry and theater. Simon studies Georgian and Caucasian garments and often uses ethnographic motives to enrich his fashion collections which are created on the bases of the museum research and the experience of craftsmen of older times. He has wide experience of show participation and conduction of sales internationally.