SERIOUSLY HIP THE TIMES CENTRE OF LONDON'S HAND CRAFTS TOWNS UNIQUE GIFTS TIMEOUT

ILIFFE YARD SE17 3QA CLEMENTS YD SE17 3LJ PEACOCK YD SE17 3LH

5 DECEMBER 6:30-9:30pm 6 DECEMBER 11am-6pm 7 DECEMBER 11am-6pm



## **COME TOGETHER**

It is that special moment again, when the Pullens Yards fling open their iron gates, and invite the world in - the Winter Open Studios. What is special about it?

Pullens Yards were purpose-built for designer-makers in the late 1880s. The studios have housed craftspeople, working with their hands, for a hundred and twenty years. Unsurprisingly, over this length of time, what most of the craftspeople produce has evolved: at one time the Yards boasted lace makers, fan makers and cabinet makers; who have been replaced by today's filmmakers, jewellers and artist potters. A few crafts have stayed, furniture designers and letterpress printers are here now, just as in the days of Queen Victoria.

Hannah Arendt wrote of "homo faber", humans fully engaged in shaping the world around them, by actually producing that world with their hands. Making involves thinking about what you make, which amounts to careful thinking about everything that surrounds you. Thinking carefully about making, naturally results in made things that exhibit sensitivity, practicality and beauty.

Richard Sennett in his recent book "The Craftsman" puts it even more succinctly: "making is thinking". Making anything necessarily involves "an intimate connection between hand and head". By making repeatedly you learn from materials and effects, and strive to find better ways of working. This striving unifies everyone in the Yards, no matter whether they make photographs, paintings, silver dogs, wooden chairs or musical instruments.

Sennett again: "craftsmanship names an enduring, basic human impulse, the desire to do a job well for its own sake". This is a rare thing in our increasingly machine-made, genericised, that-will-do, cold-calling world. The Yards are a special place, a home to thoughtful making, and on this special weekend we welcome you to participate

**Quentin Newark** 

## **HIDDEN MISSION**

**KATTY JANNEH** 

Katty makes hats. In a studio she shares with two artists, shaded by a big horse chestnut tree in Peacock Yard. Before fashion college, Katty went to evening classes, initially to study the complexity of pattern-cutting, but took a class with Rose Cory, milliner for the Queen Mother. Suddenly life was hats.

Katty is instantly likable with a smile that lights everything up. She has says her design is "anything but avant-garde", she isn't about to make a "hat made of meat". She concentrates on wearable designs, hats that mix with everyday clothes.

Her portion of the studio is a blend of atelier and factory – a duality common to the artist-maker. Walls smattered with watercolor sketches and colour-coded notes. Tables like a landscape from a Tim Burton animation; hillocks of cloth samples, behind which porcupines of needles bristle. The floor is given to serious making, chock-a-block with wooden forms

over which the cloth is stretched and left to fix a shape. At a glance, it is chaos. But if you look longer you can see how everything has its place in the processes of imagining hats and then physically making them.

Behind the sweetness, there is something of a missionary in Katty. Her designs are playful versions of classic hat types – 'classic with a twist' is a design approach taken by some of the world's most successful designers. Katty is making hats attractive and wearable to make us all wear them. Her deeper purpose is to furnish everyone with a hat. Everyone of us. Some designers strain to do things never done before, others make things that touch everyone of us.

Katty has a new website, about to launch. It shows her designs matched with this season's popular looks, you can instantly see how the hat adds something extra, quirky, personal, literally above what the original clothes designer's considered. When the site launches, the fashion world ought to beware, Katty has discovered a hither-to unexploited area: the top of our heads.















































































SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NEXT SUMMER OPEN STUDIOS 12/13/14 JUNE 2015