

CROSS CURRENTS



MAKERS
Florence Dwyer
Clare Robb
Nicole Travers
Larry Weyand

bothy
project

FOGO ISLAND ARTS
48° 37' N, 64° 12' W

Fogo Island Workshops

CROSS CURRENTS

Excerpt from Charlotte Linton's essay
Listening for the call of place, 2022

Among the makers with whom I've carried out research, those who had established a reputation and were commercially successful had also maintained connections across different geographies to absorb change and innovation that was occurring elsewhere. Their minds and bodies were open to listening to the environmental, social, economic and political conditions that their practice was subject to and they responded to these conditions with sensitivity and creativity. Creative work does not have to practice 'a culture of Possession'^{*} but can be an exchange of ideas, images, materials, histories and techniques that acknowledge inequality and appropriation. If permission is asked, collaboration sought or wellbeing assessed to minimise harm, works can result that honour and sustain the environmental and cultural origins of place.^{**}

^{*}Jamaica Kincaid, *My Garden (Book)*, London: Vintage, 2000

^{**}Robin Wall Kimmerer, 'The Honorable Harvest' in *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions, 2013

In 2021 Bothy Project, Fogo Island Arts and Fogo Island Workshops collaborated to realise *Cross Currents*, a residency and professional development project for craft-designer-makers based in Scotland and Newfoundland, Canada.

After an open call Florence Dwyer and Clare Robb went on residency to Bothy Project's Sweeney's Bothy, Isle of Eigg, and Nicole Travers and Larry Weyand were resident at Fogo Island Arts on Fogo Island.

Cross Currents proposed that residents explore the historical, artistic and social parallels between Scotland's West Coast and Newfoundland on Canada's East Coast. These topics were unpacked in a series of sessions led by: Chris Kabel (product designer, Rotterdam); Charlotte Linton (designer and anthropologist, Glasgow); Amy Proutry (curator and academic, Toronto) and Katy West (designer and educator, Glasgow).

Cross Currents builds on work undertaken by Bothy Project in *The Pioneers* (2016), where makers designed objects useful for its off-grid bothies, and Fogo Island Workshops, which has forged collaborations between designers and local makers to create furniture. Both organisations are committed to excellence in design practice which is informed by place-based artisanal knowledge and skills.

The project was generously funded through British Council Scotland and Creative Scotland's Connect and Collaborate programme, with additional support from Shorefast.

Thanks to the selection panel; Heather Igloliorte, Irene Kernan, Nicolaus Schafhausen and Katrina Tompkins. Also An Nead Hand Knitwear, All About Willow and Sarah Boden, on the Isle of Eigg and Winds & Waves Artisan Guild, on Fogo Island.

To read the full essay and find out more about the makers visit www.bothyproject.com, or scan the QR code. Set of posters available from www.bothystores.com



Clare Robb

Clare Robb is a recent graduate from The Glasgow School of Art. She lives and works in Carnoustie, Angus, on the east coast of Scotland. As a jeweller and object-maker her works are retainers of memory, inspired by collecting and gathering small, discrete objects.

Objects trigger memories and transform recollections into palpable experiences. This practice embodies wearable and sculptural pieces and each piece she makes is conceived to reconnect its user with such things as a sense of place, nostalgia, and the human body itself; matters which are easily neglected but intrinsic to our everyday lives.

Clare's work acknowledges the mundane to underline ways in which we curate our lives through the choice of items that surround us. To her, collecting is a means of expression, of selfhood, brought about by selection and curation which is presented through her work. She invites viewers to consider their own *walking mementos*; objects secreted in pockets - shells, stones, and even discarded belongings - which give shape to a landscape's complex historical and social realities through their compact forms.

On residency at Sweeney's Bothy on the Isle of Eigg, Clare explored the extremities and junctures of this concept; considering what abandoned traces communicate about the biography of place. She resolved to gather evidence which reflected the island and her time within it. The other *Cross Currents* residents joined her in collecting objects which communicated their own experiences on residency. During lockdown feelings of creative isolation and digital weariness set in and a desire to connect with others was cultivated. Robb devised virtual workshops for her fellow residents, which centred on these collected objects, to consider ways that objects gathered from our surroundings can link our identities to a sense of place.

www.clareroobmaker.co.uk

Main image: Knotted thongweed, Isle of Eigg, 2021



Florence Dwyer
Drawing table at Sweeney's Bothy,
Isle of Eigg 2021



Nicole Travers
I Honour You
Fogo Island, 2021



Larry Weyand
Detail from All the Bathrooms I Bathed In
2022

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