

# CROSS CURRENTS



MAKERS  
Florence Dwyer  
Clare Robb  
Nicole Travers  
Larry Weyand



FOGO ISLAND ARTS  
48° 37' N, 54° 12' W  
Fogo Island Workshops

# CROSS CURRENTS

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.

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

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](http://www.bothyproject.com), or scan the QR code. Set of posters available from [www.bothystores.com](http://www.bothystores.com)



## Larry Weyand

Larry Weyand is an artist and Assistant Professor at Grenfell, Memorial University, Newfoundland. In conversations around the dinner table, Larry noticed that little moments of stress, anxiety, panic, abuse, disagreement and anger can all take place within the context of a good meal. In order to better understand how these behaviours occur Larry's practice as an artist records domestic moments through the making of textiles, translating stories into sculptural fibre works, creating meaning out of yarn and fabric. Their curiosity lies in the space where narrative, psychological resilience, textile art and food intersect.

While on Fogo Island last summer Larry's mother visited them and they were reminded of their mother's paper napkin collection (collected over many years, on every special occasion, and from every place visited), which is somewhat of an obsession for Larry's mother.

*The paper napkin is a delicate way of sopping up mess, cleaning spilled milk, wiping tears, or preventing the embarrassment of stains. It is also a symbol of politeness, etiquette, poise and cleanliness.*

To Larry, this napkin collection provides a sense of stability, comfort and warmth, and inspired a new departure in their work. This new body of work uses traditional quilting techniques to recreate bed-sized quilts inspired by the patterns on the napkins, exploring themes of envelopment, safety and stability.

Without this moment on Fogo, Larry is sure that they would not have shifted their practice and would not have been influenced by the quilted wonders meticulously fabricated by artists that they encountered on the island. The community and conversations, the lifestyle and landscape, enabled Larry to slow down and find the space to contemplate their work.

[www.larryweyand.com](http://www.larryweyand.com)

Main image: Detail from *All the Bathrooms I Bathed In, 2022*

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



Clare Robb  
*Knotted thongweed, Isle of Eigg, 2021*



Nicole Travers  
*I Honour You, Fogo Island, 2021*



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