

SEPTEMBER EXHIBITION AT GRDM

FROM WILLIAM MORRIS TO TODAY: THE TEXTILES OF THE COTSWOLDS



William Morris

Marian Pepler

Liz Lippiatt

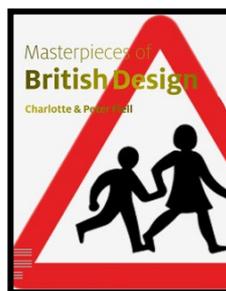
William Morris (1834-1896) described the Cotswolds as 'a heaven on earth'. This exhibition at the Gordon Russell Design Museum, explores the abundant inspiration the area has provided for Morris and many other textile designers.

As well as drawing on the Museum's own collection, in particular the work of Marian Pepler (1904-1997), the show will also include loans from other Museums and private collectors, including an early piece by William Morris. The exhibition will feature the work of other 20th Century textile designers including: Ethel Mariet (1872-1952) who worked at Broad Campden, Phyllis Barron (1890-1964) and Dorothy Larcher (1884-1952) who lived and worked at Painswick, and Tibor Reich (1916-1996) who produced all-wool coverings for Gordon Russell Ltd.

To complement these early interpretations of the Cotswolds influence, the exhibition will display work by garment designer/maker Dorothy Reglar and current Gloucestershire Guild members Tim Parry-Williams, Liz Lippiatt, Sarah Beadsmore and the team of Rebecca Aird and Peter Thwaites at Rapture & Wright. This exhibition has been curated by the Museum's Curator, Jennifer Piepereit.

GORDON RUSSELL TALKS PROGRAMME

Plans are underway for a talk by local design historians, Charlotte & Peter Fiell, to give the second in the GRDM talks programme this October. The couple founded their own design-led publishing company in 2008 in order to provide content-rich books which form and entertain their readers. Details available soon.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Without our volunteer team the Gordon Russell Design Museum would need to close its doors to visitors. With visitor numbers rising and an increase in school parties coming to see the collections as part of their design and technology courses, we need more volunteers to supplement our excellent team. Do you know anyone who might be interested in volunteering, even for just a few hours each month. Please contact the Museum's Curator, Jennifer Piepereit, for more information or to pass on contact details.

RONALD CARTER OBE, RDI (1926-2013)



The recent death of Ron Carter at the age of 86 is a reminder of a remarkable group of designers who emerged in the post war years, many of them trained at the Royal College of Art.

Ron entered the School of Wood, Metals and Plastics, which had been established by Robin Darwin at the Royal College of Art and was led by Professor R D (Dick) Russell RDI, at an exciting time. Many young students were drawn into working with architects and professional designers on the 1951 Festival of Britain. I met Ron at this time and over the years I have admired his work for its timeless impeccable quality, with meticulous attention to detail and, above all, essentially British.

On leaving the RCA he established his own practice and began a long and distinguished career as a furniture designer working with leading British furniture manufacturers, including LM Furniture and Stag and he worked closely with Robert Heritage RDI. In 1966 he was commissioned by Gordon Russell to design a dining room group, 'The Farncombe Range' to be made in American black walnut. The restrained design epitomised the quality of Ron's work and proved a success for Gordon Russell Ltd. However, when I joined Gordon Russell some years later, I discovered he had tried to persuade the company to make it in English oak, which would have been even better.

In 1980 he went into a highly successful partnership with Peter Miles. They established a small manufacturing business at Wirksworth in Derbyshire to produce his distinctive designs which led to contracts from the BBC, the British Library, the V&A and many others. In 1984 I commissioned Ron to design a group of exhibition pieces for Gordon Russell to be made to order. His exceptional design for a table and chairs in red lacquer created a great deal of interest.

A quiet modest man Ron was a delight to work with and he was also good company. He will be remembered for his contribution to British design in the last half of the 20th century. In recognition of his outstanding work as a designer he was appointed a Royal Designer for Industry in 1971 - a rare distinction he shared with Dick Russell, Robert Heritage and Robin Day.

Ray Leigh

NEW GRDM PUBLICATION

Two of a Kind. The Work of Designers Dick and Marian Russell. Thanks

Thanks to the generosity of the Russell family the GRDM has been able to publish Ray Leigh's study on the life and work of Dick Russell and Marian Pepler, who formulated 'a peculiarly British brand of modernism' in their work for Gordon Russell Ltd

Copies are on sale at the GRDM at £5 a copy.

