

For Immediate release – December 2016

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Hand & Lock

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Hand & Lock Celebrate 250th Anniversary *A Global Celebration*



Hand & Lock have been producing the world's finest hand embroidery since 1767 and specialise in embroidery for the military, the Royal Family and fashion houses as well as creating bespoke individually hand crafted embroidery.

In 2017, Hand & Lock will be celebrating 250 years of embroidery with a series of special conferences and exhibitions in Sydney, Chicago and London. The three cities represent embroidery in the 21st century as a business, art form and passion. The conference will consist of must-see talks from international speakers including business leaders, fashion historians, trend predictors, artists and designers who will discuss the

lessons of the past, challenges of the present and opportunities for the future.

As a prelude to the 2017 celebrations, Hand & Lock were proud to commence the celebration by sponsoring the Opus Anglicanum: Masterpieces of English Medieval Embroidery exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. To complement the exhibit, Hand & Lock hosted a series of speakers and teachers who revealed the stories and techniques of the embroideries featured in the exhibition and explored the historical context, artistic symbolism as well as the cultural impact of the ancient art form.

Over the last 250 years, Hand & Lock has brought the art of embroidery together with the luxury and commercial industries across the world, safeguarding the techniques and artistry, one generation to the next. Hand & Lock is a company that understands that the experience of owning beautiful and special objects plays a meaningful part in people's lives. Alastair Macleod, Chairman of Hand & Lock, says "We have achieved this milestone through the hard work and dedication of the team and our relationships with our clients. We are incredibly dedicated to preserving the art form of embroidery throughout generations of craftsmen and women."

A touring exhibit will be present in Sydney and Chicago for those attending the conferences while the exhibition in London will be open to the public. Curated by the University of the Arts London and supported by the Textile Research Centre, the exhibit will highlight Hand & Lock's role at the forefront of fashion and military embroidery for the last 250 years. It will showcase drafts, samples, fashion pieces and historical ledgers from the private archives. In keeping with Hand & Lock's commitment to the development and education of embroidery, a three day course in Haute Couture Tambour Beading, a embroidery skill prized in the world of high fashion, will be taught in each city.

Demonstrating that embroidery is rooted in the past but thriving in the present, all three exhibitions will also include a special exhibit of specially commissioned one-of-a-kind designer handbags embellished in an array of techniques. Known as "The Embellished Handbag Project", this project is Hand & Lock's endeavour to keep the tradition of craft alive in a contemporary way through the collaboration with luxury British brands.

The epitome of a traditional company which is embracing and thriving in a contemporary environment, Hand & Lock will be putting a spotlight on the art of embroidery in 2017. Jessica Pile, Production Director at Hand & Lock, says "2017 is a time where we will be taking a look at where we started, what we have achieved, and what our plans are for the future."



The Great British Dress, Nicholas Oakwell

-ENDS-

Editors Notes:

About Hand & Lock

Hand & Lock have been producing the world's finest hand embroidery since 1767. From Civilian and Military Regalia through to Ecclesiastical and Couture, they specialise in bespoke, individually crafted embroidery. Hand & Lock will be celebrating 250 years of embroidery in 2017 with a series of special conferences and exhibitions in Sydney, Chicago and London. at <http://handembroidery.com/about/250-years-global-celebration>

Sydney Conference

Date: Thursday 6 April

Time: 10.00 16.00

Duration: 6 hours

Location: Carriageworks. 245 Wilson St, Eveleigh NSW 2015, Australia

Parking Entrance: 229 Wilson Street

Nearest station: Redfern

Speakers include: Hand & Lock's Head of Design, Scott Gordon Heron / Senior Lecturer at Charles Sturt University, Dr Susan Woods / Textile Artist, Sera Waters / Embroiderers Guild of NSW, Mary Brown.

Over the course of the day our talks will be divided into three areas: 'Heritage', 'The Now' and 'The Future'. Each topic will be explored with the help of a panel talk, an expert guest speaker and conclude with a hosted interactive Q&A session.

At the start of the day in the 'Heritage' talk, attendees will learn about the nuanced history of embroidery as a means of religious and secular expression, and how the practice evolved into a means of personal fashionable expression. We will discuss the origins of the techniques still used today and how (or how little) they have changed. Finally, attendees will gain an understanding of the issues practitioners have faced in recent history and how they have overcome these issues to get to where they are now.

In the 'Now' section we will explore how contemporary embroidery is at once a craft, an art and tool fashion designers use to add luxury to their collections. Our panel and guest speakers will share their experiences as working designers and embroiderers in the 21st Century and discuss what impact recent economic, technological and social changes have had on their output.

In the afternoon session our speakers will turn their attention to the 'Future of Embroidery' and attempt to predict the impact technology and globalisation will have on the practice of embroidery. The Q&A is your chance to voice your thoughts and ideas and have the panel share their expert opinion on how they expect the field of embroidery to evolve over the next century.

Chicago Conference

Date: Thursday 8 June 2017

Time: 10.00 16.00

Duration: 6 hours

Location: Claudia Cassidy Theater, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E Washington St, Chicago, IL 60602, United States.

Speakers include: Hand & Lock's Head of Design, Scott Gordon Heron / Fashion historian and author, Amber Butchart / Designer and Artist, Katrin Schnabl / Instructor in Art History, Theory and Criticism Nancy Feldman / Writer and Artist, Lisa Vinebaum / SAIC's Caroline Bellios / Fibre Artist, Aram Han Sifuentes / Artist, Nelly Agassi / The Art Institute of Chicago's Isaac Facio / Professor of Art History, Gillion Carrara.

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London Conference

Date: Thursday 13 July 2017

Time: 10.00 16.00

Duration: 6 hours

Location: Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4QH

Speakers include: Hand & Lock's Head of Design, Scott Gordon Heron / Director of the textile Research centre, Dr Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood / Artistic director of the Embroiderers Guild, Anthea Godfrey / Former Dean of Central Saint Martin's, Jane Rampley OBE / Head of Embroidery for Game of Thrones, Michelle Carragher

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Haute Couture Tambour Beading Workshop

The intensive five day class focuses on the Haute Couture embroidery technique known as Tambour Beading or Crochet de Lunéville. The origins of this particular embroidery skill are unclear; it appeared in Europe in the 18th century and quickly became a popular pastime for ladies. The technique was fairly exotic compared to other techniques of that time and that no doubt contributed to its popularity. The technique is still used now in high fashion where beads or sequins can be attached to a fabric. Unlike the other techniques the embroidery is accomplished with a special hook working through a fabric stretched tight as a drum. The technique is popular on International Catwalks and can be seen in shows by Elie Saab and Oscar De La Renta.

Students enrolled on this special class will learn how to create a design, set up a full size frame and how to work the hook through the fabric without catching. Once they are practised enough they will learn how to place beads, sequins, bugles using the technique.

Day 1: Construct a full size embroidery frame with silk fabric and practice the tambour stitch in all directions with beads, bugles and sequins on transparent fabric.

Day 2: Learn the method for transferring a supplied design onto Silk and apply techniques learned on day one to a design.

Day 3: Complete supplied design, depending on ability the students will have the opportunity to experiment with non transparent fabrics and other techniques such as ribbon work.

Suitable for Level 1 and Level 2.

For any additional information or images please contact Sasha Danker on 020 7580 7488 or at sasha@handembroidery.com
www.handembroidery.com / [@handandlock](https://www.facebook.com/handandlock) / [facebook.com/handandlock](https://www.facebook.com/handandlock)