

EXISTENTIAL CRAFT



ADORNED
AFTERLIFE

'Adorned Afterlife- Existential Craft' is an interdisciplinary research network in partnership with the National Museum of Scotland (NMS) consisting of experts from the fields of Jewellery Design, Archaeology, Forensic Anthropology, Classics, History and Museology.



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

Practice outputs

Stephen Bottomley
Birmingham Institute of Jewellery,
Fashion and Textiles
Faculty of Art, Design & Media

Output name:
Adorned Afterlife Network

- Network Symposium Edinburgh 2016
- Conference talk Canadian Biennale 2017
- Journal for Jewellery Research paper 2018



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh College of Art



SCOTTISH GOLDSMITHS TRUST

Adorned Afterlife network was established by Bottomley in 2015 with a University of Edinburgh's Challenge Investment Award. Bottomley brought together a network of international researchers from Design, Archaeology, Forensic Anthropology, History and Museology to examine hidden objects of adornment and share discourse and analysis through high-quality speculative multidisciplinary research.

Museums contain many intangible artefacts from our past that relate to the body as adornment. These objects may be represented in paintings and carvings, or literally buried in sarcophaguses or beneath layers of funereal wrappings and recognisable as symbolic objects, often relating to death or the afterlife.

Modern techniques such as computerised tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanning offer non-invasive examining of delicate or hidden artefacts in

museum collections. The network will seek to analyse and discuss these less tangible objects of adornment and burial/grave goods that lie within our museums collections that may be considered the 'Otherwise unobtainable' (Harrod).

Sharing insights and knowledge we collectively questioned inter-related disciplines through the lens of own specialist practices:

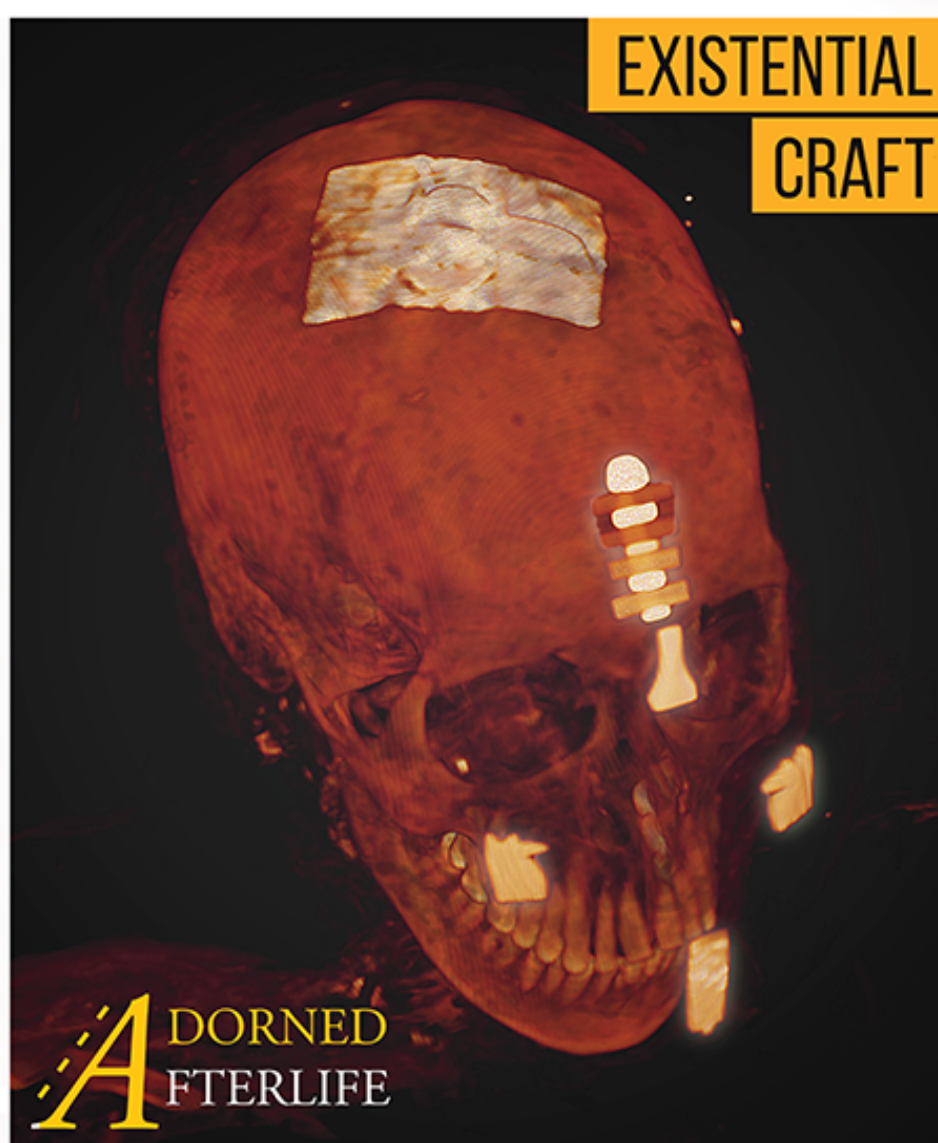
- Their purpose (*why were they made*)
- Their significance (*both then and now*)
- How they were made (*and by whom*)



Adorned Afterlife display, 3D printed samples from CT scans
(Diego/Bottomley) Main Sculpture Court ECA 31.03.16

Network members :

- Stephen Bottomley PI, Director of Jewellery and Silversmithing
- Diego Zamora RA and PhD researcher
- Dr Elena Kranioti, Lecture, Forensic Anthropology, University of Edinburgh
- Dr Margaret Maitland Curator Ancient Mediterranean, National Museums Scotland (NMS)
- Dr Lore Troalen Analytical scientist/Conservation, National Museums Scotland (NMS)
- Dr Elizabeth Moignard Professor of Classical Art and Archaeology, University of Glasgow
- Dr Siobhan McLaughlin, Consultant Radiologist, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh
- Dr Jack Ogden, Jewellery Historian and Author
- Gay Penfold Associate Professor Jewellery Industry Innovation Centre, School of Jewellery, Birmingham City Uni.
- Dr Ben Russell, Classical Archaeology, University of Edinburgh
- Elizabeth Turrell, Curator/Vitreous Enamel Artist
- Giovanni Corvaja, Master Italian Goldsmith



First symposium - ECA - Thursday, 31 March 2016, 14:00 to 18:00
Find out more and reserve tickets at www.adornedafterlife.eca.ed.ac.uk

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Output :Conference/Symposium

The Adorned Afterlife network public symposium
Edinburgh 31st March 2016.

The symposium attracted 127 delegates and
included 4 speakers papers with an accompanying
exhibition of the network members individual
expertise and research interests in the ECA Main
Sculpture Court.

The display included texts and objects of members
research, including;

- contemporary gold and silverwork inspired
classical metalwork themes
- traditional and contemporary Egyptian faience
- digital medical scans 3D reconstructions and
holograms
- texts and publications contextualising the Rhind
Mummy first case study
- one new contemporary piece of adornment was
designed and collaboratively made (Bottomley and
Zamora). This knitted headpiece featured a scanned,
3D printed and electroformed reconstruction of
the amulet situated beneath the mummy's
bandages on its skull and thus invisible to the
human eye.

Output : Journal Paper

A juried paper 'Adorned Afterlife Research
Network' (Bottomley) was accepted for the Journal
of Jewellery Research, February 2018



National Museums Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh analysis
(left to right)
Dr Kranioti, Corvaja and Dr Ogden

‘Sharing insights and knowledge we will collectively question inter-related disciplines through the lens of own specialist practices’ (Bottomley)

Originality: New Knowledge

Remaking damaged archaeological treasures by 3D scanning and modelling is increasingly common. The Birmingham City University Innovation centre, who are also members of our network, have remade pieces from both the Staffordshire hoard and the Cheapside hoard. Our project differs in that it does not seek to re-create a simulacrum, but rather understand the significance and concept behind its creation from a diverse set of expert perspectives and to explain this to a new contemporary audience.

The project was awarded a 2016 University of Edinburgh Challenge Investment Award.

Objectives

- To collaborate with scientists, archaeologists, museum curators and historians in the multidisciplinary examination of existing tomography of Egyptian mummies at the National Museums Scotland.
- To purposefully connect craft with conservation and archaeological history through discursive and practical examination of artefacts and objects to better understand the ‘how, where, when and why’ they were made.
- To exhibit new works of jewellery inspired by the digital transformation and examination of ancient artefacts.



Museums Scotland (NMS) Archive in Granton, Edinburgh to view the Rhind mummy and other stored pieces.

Rigour: a rigorous process of investigation

The methodology followed practice-based research, comparing craft makers primary knowledge with curators secondary and tertiary sources via filmed interviews and presentations through each other's lens of enquiry, to "learn by active experience and reflection on that experience" (Gray & Malins, 2004).

- March 15th 2016 NMS Granton Archive visit
- March 31st 2016 First full Network meeting eca (AM)
Adorned Afterlife symposium, eca (PM)
- April 1st 2016 Network meeting eca (AM)
- March 31st and April 1st 2016 Network filmed interviews.
- April 1st Visit & handling session of artefacts at NMS (PM)
- July 2016 Published findings *Adorned Afterlife* website
- September 15th and 16th 2017, plenary talk 'Digital Ties that Bind session' (Chair Bottomley) at the Canadian Craft Biennial Conference Can Craft? Craft Can! Burlington and Toronto, Canada



The Adorned Afterlife website archives all the lectures from the symposium, as well as information on the 1st case study and nine video interviews with network members

<http://www.adornedafterlife.eca.ed.ac.uk/network-talking-heads-page/>



Adorned afterlife 1st Network members meeting, sharing individual practice and perspectives through lightning talks 31.03.16



Q&A session, Adorned Afterlife Symposium,
(left to right) Corvaja, Maitland, Bottomley, Ogden, Kranioti – interviewer Kelly 31.03.16

Significance: effective sharing

The network has encouraged high quality speculative multidisciplinary research involving archaeological and anthropological issues and engagement between disciplines that would not otherwise have an opportunity or forum to share discourse and analysis.

All symposium lectures and films are published at
<http://www.adornedafterlife.eca.ed.ac.uk>

The conference was advertised through national subject forums and was sponsored by the Scottish incorporation of Goldsmiths who helped make places and hospitality free to students and researchers .

“The Symposium was one of the most interesting I have ever attended. I thought the mix of specialists from different sectors gave an incredibly interesting and well-rounded account of the Rhind Mummy and her jewellery. The network you have put together is a really fantastic opportunity to continue with cross-sector work and discussions like this – it would be wonderful to see more of this kind of work.”

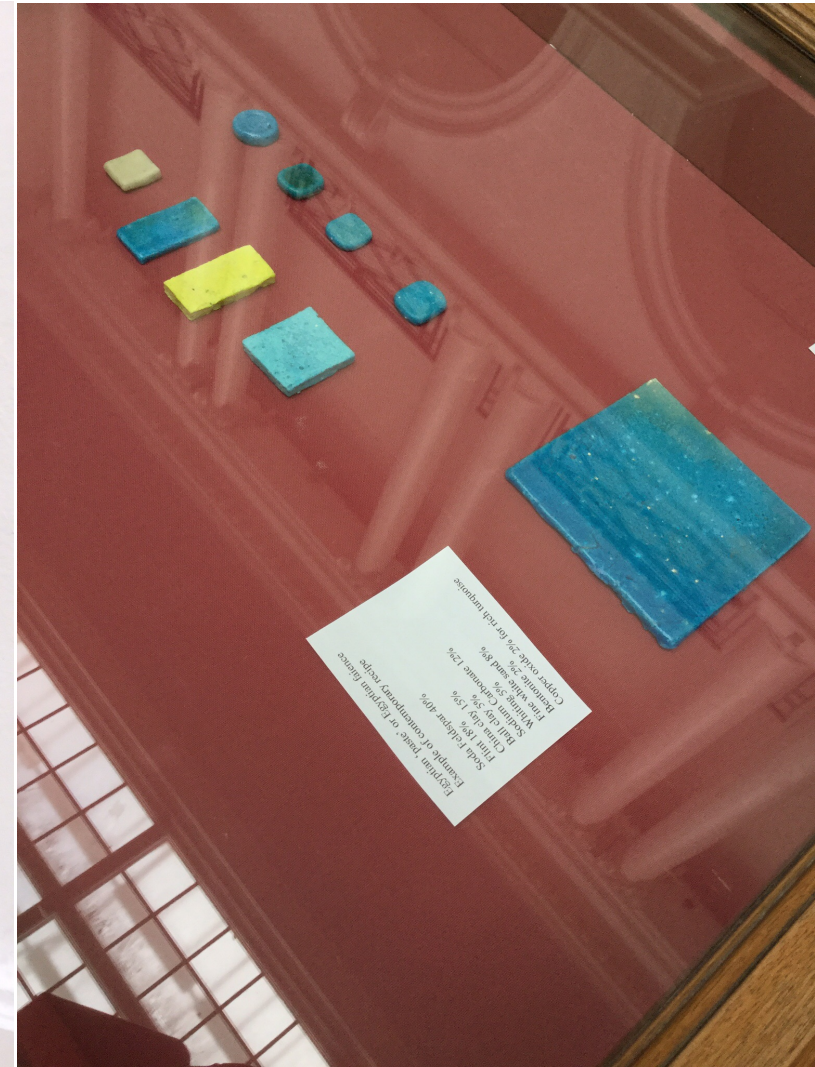
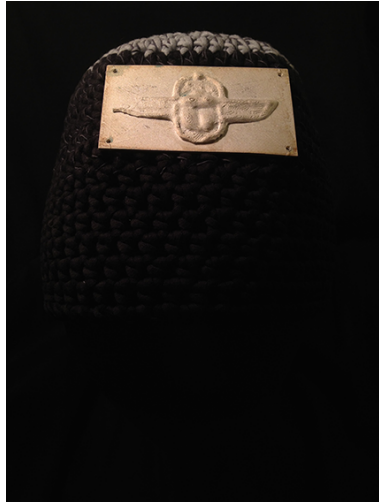
Mary Michel · Director Incorporation of Goldsmiths.
Scottish Goldsmith’s Trust



Adorned Afterlife display, Main Sculpture Court ECA 31.03.16

Outcomes:

- A juried paper 'Adorned Afterlife Research Network' (Bottomley) was accepted for the Journal of Jewellery Research, February 2018
- Outcomes presented at the Canada Craft Biennale Ontario September 2017 (Bottomley "The quick and the dead. The changing meaning and significance of jewellery beyond the grave")
- (Turrell) Egyptian faience made for display in the National Museum Scotland exhibition 'The Tomb' 2019 (Maitland curator)
- On going faience research (Bottomley/Turrell/Kelly) into Egyptian paste and contemporary use as a material for contemporary jewellery. (Exhibited in SPACE/CRAFT 2019 exhibition, Birmingham School of Jewellery)



Adorned Afterlife display, (Left. Bottomley/Diego headpiece) (Right Egyptian paste samples.Turrell) Main Sculpture Court ECA 31.03.16

Appendix 1

Website

Appendix 2

Plenary Session (Chair) at
'Canadian Craft Biennale' 15th
& 16th September 2017
Paper

"The quick and the dead. The
changing meaning and
significance of jewellery beyond
the grave"

Adorned Afterlife Research
Network
Journal paper

Appendix 3

Paper (Juried)
**Adorned Afterlife Research
Network**
Journal of jewellery Research
*Editors: Bernabei R, Wallace J,
Wilson S*
Feb 2018