



At Home with Silver: Post Event Report



Image by James Robertson

Prepared and presented by
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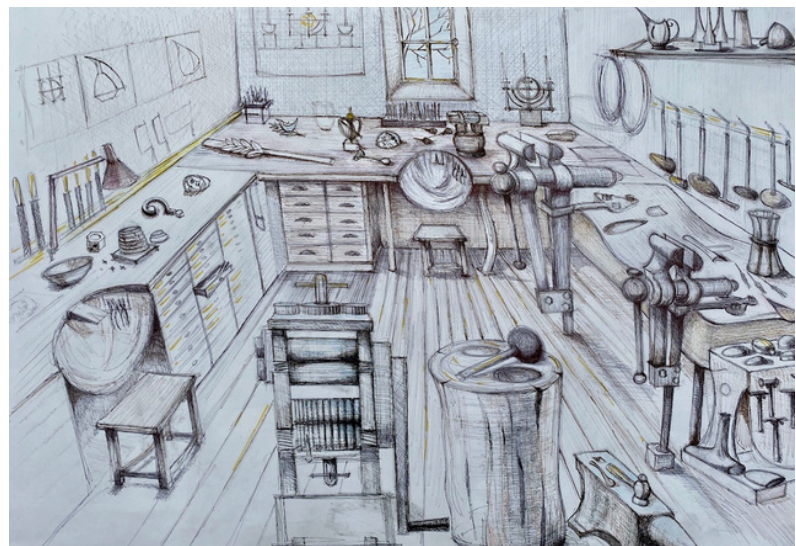
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The 'At Home with Silver' weekend hosted by the The Scottish Goldsmiths Trust (SGT) and Marchmont House took place from 24-26 March 2023. It brought together 82 guests on the open day launch from across the UK and internationally to the Marchmont Estate, near Duns in the Scottish Borders. Together we celebrated the opening of the Marchmont Silversmithing Workshop - a brand new fully-equipped workspace for silversmiths, developed by the SGT in partnership with Marchmont Makers Foundation, with additional support from the William Grant Foundation.



Photography Credit: Hannah Keddie

Our aims in building this event programme were to bring visitors together to celebrate the opening of the silversmithing workshop, to spark conversation and collaboration and discuss growing the market for our silversmiths, while beginning to address how we can work more sustainably. Present at the event were practising silversmiths, curators, writers, jewellers, funders, industry leaders, students and enthusiasts, all of whom share a love for the material and language of silver, alongside supporting and nurturing excellence in design and making. Woven through the weekend programme was the importance placed by makers on passing on their craft skills and knowledge. This was embodied by the late Graham Stewart's gift of his entire tool library to the workshop and the raising of a 'community bowl' by the attendees using AgAIN Silver, recycled from NHS X-rays, overseen by the expertise of silversmiths Brett Payne, Bryony Knox, Rod Kelly and Angela Cork.



Photography Credit: Marchmont House, and Illustration of Silversmithing workshop by Graham Stewart.



The Saturday opening day began in the Music Room of Marchmont House. Director and Founder of Marchmont Ventures, Hugo Burge, welcomed us all and sharing his vision of Marchmont as a home to makers and creators to nurture and inspire 'a future we can all get excited about'.

Lisa Koenigsberg, President of Initiatives in Art and Culture from New York City, spoke of the importance and role of craft in a transformational age and how previous movements inform the future of culture. Ebba Goring, SGT CEO, then gave an overview of how the workshop developed over the past three years and the 'fifth bench' concept for residencies and international collaboration.

We heard from Professor Sandra Wilson and Dr Emilia Ferraro on their research for the British Museum Endangered Material Knowledge Programme, exploring traditional silversmithing in Quito, Ecuador. We welcomed Gabriela Andrade and Fernando Buitron, Master Silversmiths from Ecuador and the Marchmont Silversmithing Workshops first residents, funded by Marchmont Makers Foundation with additional support from the University of Dundee and The Silver Society.

The talks concluded with a discussion on silver in contemporary life hosted by Art Critic and Journalist Corinne Julius. The panel included Anna Gordon, Sheng Zhang, Bryony Knox and Colin Fraser.





After the talks and a delicious lunch, attendees gathered at the Silversmithing Workshop for the ribbon cutting ceremony, formally opening the workshop with Ebba Goring and Hugo Burge. The attendees were then able to explore the nearby Creative Spaces and take part in the raising of the community bowl. Silversmith tenants Ryan McClean, Katie Watson, Scott Smith and Hannah Keddie welcomed visitors to the workshop and shared their work and practice, processes and plans for their time ahead at Marchmont Silversmithing Workshop. We were delighted to hear some of them also made sales and received commissions during the event.



From the left; Silversmith Tenants, Ryan McClean, Katie Watson, Hannah Keddie and Scott Smith, SGT CEO Ebba Goring, Director of Marchmont Ventures Hugo Burge, Director of the William Grant Foundation, Nick Addington, SGT Project Officer Clare Hanna and Marchmont General Manager and Director of Marchmont Makers Foundation, Lucy Brown. Image Credit: James Robertson

The Silversmith Tenants



Ryan McLean: Master Silversmith



Katie Watson: Early Career Silversmith



Scott Smith: Early Career Silversmith



Hannah Keddie: Early Career Silversmith



"Thank you Scottish Goldsmiths Trust and Marchmont Makers Foundation for having the vision and commitment to create such a fabulous environment to support emerging silversmiths. We are at one in our love of contemporary silver and desire to ensure these precious craft skills, and the makers who wish to perfect them, thrive in the future. It's clear your work will further enhance creative output and we will encourage Bishopsland alumni to participate with Marchmont in the years to come."

Claire Murdoch,
Director of Bishopsland Educational Trust



"The silversmithing studios provide a wonderful legacy to the work and life of Graham Stewart and in supporting future generations of talented makers develop their professional careers.

Marchmont is a very special creative space, that cultivates a breadth of practices through a shared passion for material practice and artistic knowledge generously given in a community spirit."

Professor Stephen Bottomley,
Head of The School of Design
The Glasgow School of Art

"It was superb. Well done! Loved every minute. Magnificent setting, inspiring craftsmanship, great people. Thank you Marchmont, the SGT and Graham Stewart."

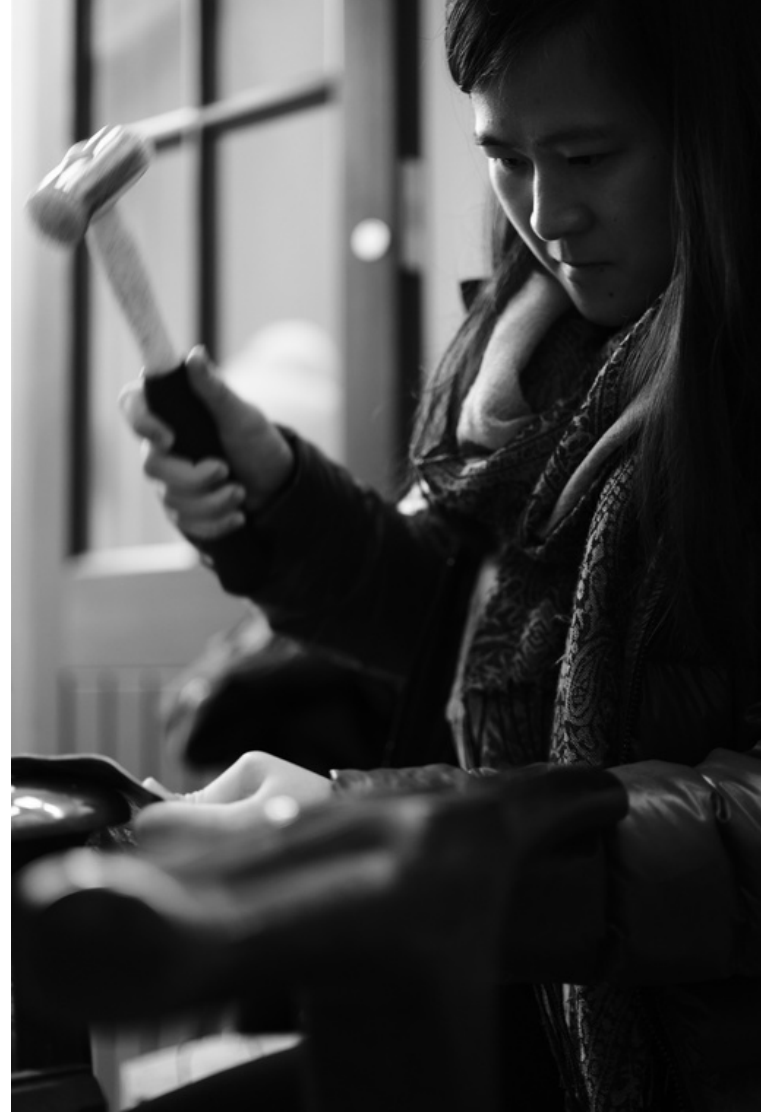
Arthur Drysdale,
Chairman of The Silver Society



What was an important and valuable element of the weekend as a whole was the ability to speak in depth to the early career silversmiths who have taken up residency in the incubation space at Marchmont. To hear first hand their career aspirations and the issues and adversity in starting a career in their chosen field and the scarcity of such a facility such as Marchmont and the huge opportunity this presents and a launchpad for their businesses.

Rebecca Van Rooijen,
Editor of Benchpeg







There were 36 guests staying for the weekend in the house and surrounding self-catering accommodation. Weekend guests attended a black-tie celebration dinner on the Saturday evening in the formal dining rooms of Marchmont House. We would like to thank The Incorporation of Goldsmiths of the City of Edinburgh for loaning incredible silver from The Millennium Collection, including the Centrepiece by Malcolm Appleby, a pair of Claret Jugs by Graham Stewart, Wine Goblets by John Creed and the full collection of Outstanding Student Award Goblets for the dining table. The Pearson Silver Collection also loaned the stunning Mobius Bowl by Graham Stewart, which sat pride of place in the Green Dining Room. Many of the silversmiths attending also brought a beaker or goblet of their own which sparked great conversations throughout the evening.

On the Sunday following a tour of the art works in the grounds of Marchmont Estate led by Hugo, we headed back to the Silversmithing Workshop to plant a silver birch tree in memory of Graham in the newly landscaped garden area.

SGT Trustee and Silversmith Bryony Knox and Ebba Goring visited the workshop soon after At Home with Silver to spend some time with the first residents, Gabriela and Fernando. Please go to our website to read the blog post about this first residency.

Clare Hanna, our Project Officer for Marchmont Silversmithing Workshop has been a huge asset to this project, supporting the fit out of the workshop, developing agreements and contracts, organising, and researching specialist equipment, inventories and development plans as well as being first contact for our tenants. The SGT are currently working on the future residency programme. We hope to be able to offer self-funded and funded residency opportunities for silversmiths in the UK and internationally for 1 week to 1-month durations. Residency opportunities will be launched later in the year on the SGT website and shared widely across our networks, with partners and fellow creative organisations and platforms.



Rounding up our press coverage we achieved articles in a number of publications and recently welcomed ITV Borders to the workshop for a segment for regional television programme Border Life.

Highlights of the coverage achieved:

- ITV Border Life
- ITV Border News
- I Newspaper
- Times
- Times Week in Pictures (online)
- Herald – print and online
- The National
- Metro
- Benchpeg
- Retail Jeweller
- Jewellery Focus
- Craft Scotland
- Artmag
- Yahoo news
- Pixet Jewellery



The Scottish Goldsmiths Trust would like to thank our partners Marchmont Creative Spaces, Hugo Burge and the whole team at Marchmont, especially General Manager Lucy Brown and House Steward David Kinghorn for the warm welcome and impeccable hospitality. We would also like to thank supporters of the project, The William Grant Foundation, The Marchmont Makers Foundation, and our Bench Sponsors as well as lead consultant for the weekend launch event Karin Paynter.



Thank you to all those who attended the launch event and please stay in touch. If you would like to visit the workshop please contact the silversmith tenants, or for larger groups, sponsorship and collaborative events please contact the SGT directly.

We were deeply saddened by the news in May that Hugo Burge, Director of Marchmont Ventures had passed away. Sharing this report with you now, written shortly after our opening event in April, is a wonderful memory of a remarkable weekend where Hugo shared his vision, passion and heartfelt support for makers and creators, and excitement to see the workshop ready for business.

Hugo's support for the arts and contemporary crafts continues via the Marchmont Makers Foundation which he established in 2021, ensuring that his vision of supporting creativity across the Scottish Borders and the UK will continue to be realised at Marchmont House and Estate. We continue our close working relationship with the Marchmont Makers Foundation and there will be no change in support offered to the Marchmont Silversmithing Workshop.

We will be forever thankful for the belief Hugo had in the Silversmithing Workshop and his unwavering support in realising this project. We will do all we can to honour what has been started at Marchmont, a remarkable legacy.



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Header images on page 4 and 8 are from Rebecca Van Rooijen

Images of the residency silversmiths on page 8, Gabriela Andrade and Fernando Buitron by Bryony Knox.

Bottom two images on page 7, SGT.

Press image on page 9, Colin Hattersley.

All other images unless otherwise stated by James Robertson.