

Press Release for immediate release

Kingsgate Gallery

BASKETRY NATION

AN EXHIBITION OF BASKETS
AS DIVERSE AND INDIVIDUAL AS THEIR MAKERS

Curated by Polly Pollock

Preview 4th March 4- 8pm

5th March – 14th March

Adult workshop with basket maker Ann Nazareth, 14th March, 11.00 – 5.00pm

Kingsgate Gallery presents Basketry Nation an exhibition showcasing work by the Tuesday afternoon basketry class at Kingsgate Community Centre in Kilburn, London. This class evolved out of an Arts Council funded 6-week project in 2000 initiated by the then Education Officer at Kingsgate Workshops Trust, Rehana Mughal, and basketmaker Polly Pollock.

The work in this exhibition is by the current class, many of whom have been coming for five years or more, and who have formed a stable and supportive group in addition to acquiring the skills to produce very exciting basketry to a high standard. Several of the exhibitors have gone on to study on the highly regarded basketry courses at the City Lit in Covent Garden, London, including the 2 year City & Guilds qualification.

The project, set up for women from the local Somali Community has evolved over the past 8 years into a group which reflects the vibrant ethnic and social mix of the local community. Since the project began around 30 students from Somalia, Bangladesh, Catalonia, Turkey, France, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Colombia, Zimbabwe, Ireland, and the UK have attended the class, some coming for just a term, others for much longer.

Polly Pollock has worked hard from the outset to promote a highly creative approach to basketry. Through the use of colour, varied materials, and techniques which draw on basketry traditions from around the world, widely held perceptions of basketry (often associated with occupying people's time in institutions where the work produced is predictable and unimaginative) are challenged.

Polly Pollock, has exhibited her own basketry work throughout the UK and currently has work in the showcase at Hastings Museum and Art Gallery until 3rd May 2009. She teaches basketry at the City Lit, Morley College, as well as on a freelance basis.

On the 14th March, 11.00am – 5.00pm at Kingsgate Workshops Trust education building, basket maker Ann Nazareth will be delivering a basketry workshop for adults teaching the pinwheel/windmill knot as used in New Zealand to make a traditional basket or bag (kete). For more information, please see workshop details attached and for registration and please either call Kingsgate Workshops Trust on 020 7328 7878 or e-mail adam@kingsgateworkshops.org.uk .

Further information

Preview: 4th March, 4 - 8pm, Kingsgate Gallery is open Thurs – Fri 12- 5pm, Sat - Sun 11 -5pm

For further information and images please call Adam Holmes-Davies at the KWT office (tel: 020 7328 7878), Email: adam@kingsgateworkshops.org.uk or visit our website: www.kingsgateworkshops.org.uk

Kingsgate Gallery, Kingsgate Workshops Trust, 110-116 Kingsgate Road, London, NW6 2JG

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For further information and images please call Adam Holmes-Davies, Manager (Gallery Manager) at the KWT office (tel: 020 7328 7878), Email: adam@kingsgateworkshops.org.uk or visit our website: www.kingsgateworkshops.org.uk

Kingsgate Gallery is Kingsgate Workshops Trust in-house gallery showcasing 10 exhibitions a year of contemporary artists and crafts people.

Kingsgate Workshops Trust is an artist' studio and a registered charity, dedicated to promoting education in the arts and crafts for public benefit.

Key sponsors of KWT include Camden Council and Arts Council England.

For further information please call Adam Holmes-Davies, Manager (Education and Development) or Nick Weeks, Manager (Operations) at the KWT office (tel: 020 7328 7878) or visit our website: www.kingsgateworkshops.org.uk

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