



Richardson, Andrew (2011) Pixel Ware. [Show/Exhibition]

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## The Malcolm MacDonald Gallery



Durham University's Oriental Museum is home to one of the finest collections of Chinese antiquities in the UK.

The Chinese ceramics collected by politician and diplomat, the Rt Hon Malcolm MacDonald, form one of the key elements of this collection.

Covering almost 5000 years of history, from the Neolithic Period to the 20th century, these magnificent ceramics

will form the back-bone of the new gallery opening at the Oriental Museum in November 2011.

Occupying a whole floor of the museum, the completely refurbished gallery will also include ancient jades, bronze weapons and religious artefacts that reflect the



other strengths of the museum's internationally important Chinese collections. Visitors will see models made for burial in ancient tombs, fine porcelain created for the Imperial court, an ancient iron horse and exquisitely carved jade ornaments.

### Design and Digital Panel Discussion

**When:**  
Sunday 4 December 2011  
at 2:00pm

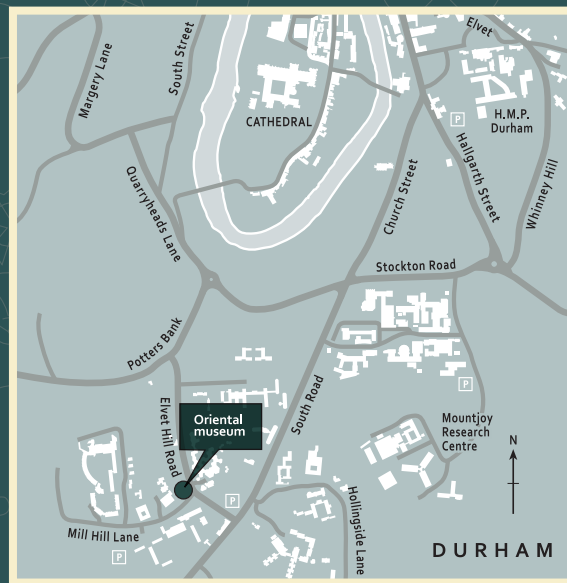
**Where:**  
Elvet Hill House, Elvet Hill  
Road, Durham, DH1 3TH  
Phone: 0191 3347209.  
Fax: 0191 3347201.

Craig Barclay, curator of the Oriental Museum will lead a panel discussion exploring the challenges and benefits for museums engaging with art in our digital age. In particular, how traditional museum objects and collections can be given a fresh perspective and a renewed relevance to contemporary museum audiences by engaging with contemporary digital media artists.

For more information visit [www.durham.ac.uk/oriental.museum](http://www.durham.ac.uk/oriental.museum)

## Access and Parking

to the Oriental Museum, Durham



In partnership with



For more information on how to get to Durham please visit [www.durham.ac.uk/travel/todurham](http://www.durham.ac.uk/travel/todurham)

### Walking

The Oriental Museum is approximately a 20 minute walk from the centre of Durham.

### Cycling

There are spaces available outside the museum for secure bike parking.

### Public Transport

**Buses:** 5/5A/21/PR2 stop a short walk from the Oriental Museum.

**Rail:** Durham station is a 25 minute walk or short taxi ride from the museum.

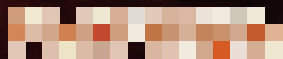
### Free Parking

Plus dedicated disabled spaces at the museum entrance. Additional car parking is available on Elvet Hill, a short walk from the entrance, and at the nearby Durham City Park and Ride.



Pixel Ware

by Andrew Richardson



## Pixel Ware

by Andrew Richardson



*A new digital artwork which links innovative digital interaction alongside traditional decorative Chinese ceramic design.*



This new artwork is inspired by the world-renown collection of Chinese ceramics, sited at Durham University's Oriental Museum. It creates an engaging interactive environment which brings a fresh perspective to the ideas and aesthetics of the traditional decorative ceramic design by re-imagining the surface of ceramic objects as a space to project interactive digital pattern and form.

Traditional decorative Chinese pattern and symbol from the Oriental Museum's collection, are used and reworked to create digitally generative surface designs which are projected onto blank ceramic objects on an interactive table.

Each object on the table triggers an individual digital pattern to be projected onto it. Visitors can interact with, develop or change each of the digitally projected surface patterns as they add, move, or rotate objects on the table. The use of contemporary digital technology within the context of traditional

Chinese ceramic design highlights common concerns and intersections between both ancient and modern processes.

The desire to create work which displays visual and aesthetic control and inventiveness through technological experimentation and advancement are common to both traditional and digital techniques of making. This project represents a continuation of a body of visual investigation in which Andrew has sought to apply the ethos and aesthetic sensibilities of traditional forms of design within a digital, computational, environment.

By 'handcrafting' programming code as a kind of raw material Andrew's work explores links and associations between traditional and digital forms of design process and making.

This work offers a new opportunity to develop links between traditional and digital forms of decorative design and to develop a new hybrid form of digitally decorative design.



## Craig Barclay

Curator of the Oriental Museum



*We are very excited to work with Andrew on the creation of this new artwork to coincide with the opening our new Chinese gallery.*

The Chinese ceramic collection at the Oriental Museum is one of the most significant in the UK, covering almost 5000 years of history and encompassing almost all of the significant ware and glaze types.

The collection is used as a source of inspiration and information on Chinese culture by thousands of school children, university students and other museum visitors each year. Andrew's re-imagining and reworking of motifs and symbols from the ceramic collection will bring a fresh perspective, allowing visitors to interact with these wonderful objects in exciting new ways.



## Suzy O'Hara

Creative Director of Durham City Arts



*DCA is delighted to be working in partnership with Andrew Richardson and the Oriental Museum to produce 'Pixel Ware'*

...a new digitally focused commission inspired by the museum's impressive collection of historical Chinese ceramics.

This work is an exceptional example of how artists engaged in the creative application of cutting edge technologies can bring new life, perspective and relevance to one of the most significant museum collections in the UK.

*DCA enables, encourages and promotes access to excellence in the arts and facilitates transformational arts based experiences to as wide an audience as possible, utilising digital technologies.*