



MAKING MEANING - CRAFT & LABOUR

WHEN 24 NOV - 24 NOV 2016

WHERE UNSW ART & DESIGN

ADDRESS MAIN LECTURE THEATRE EG02 CNR OXFORD ST & GREENS RD PADDINGTON, NSW 2021

HOURS 6- 8PM

UNSW Art & Design presents a special lecture by **Professor Jessica Hemmings** from the **National College of Art & Design in Dublin**. Hemmings is internationally recognised for her research in design and textiles.

In this lecture, Prof Hemmings examines the ways in which value – or the lack thereof – is attributed to goods produced in a globalised world. Familiar criticisms are easy to level against today's culture of overproduction – low quality goods manufactured in unacceptable working conditions have driven down quality in favour of volume. Far harder to come by are clear solutions, especially given the formidable barriers to change of consumer apathy, the disparities of global economics, and rapidly disappearing knowledge.

Hemmings explores these topics and offers inspiring examples of designers and artists succeeding in their rejection of current models of production, such as American artist, Liza Lou, who recently explained, "The story and the way things are made is very important, it is part of the meaning... I don't think you can separate the meaning from how things are made... if we do that, then what we do is negate labor, and the people that are part of a process."

Hemmings discusses various practitioners including Liza Lou, Studio Formafantasma, Meekyoung Shin, Theaster Gates, and Hechizoo Studio – each of whom critique current models of production and investigate alternatives.

Jessica Hemmings is an Adjunct Professor at UNSW Art & Design and is taking part in a UNSW Art & Design Residency from 19 November - 4 December, 2016. Hemmings will assume a new position in January 2017 as a Professor of Craft at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. Her publications include a collection of essays titled *In the Loop: Knitting Now* published by Black Dog, *The Textile Reader* (Berg), and *Warp & Weft* (Bloomsbury). Her latest editorial and curatorial project, *Cultural Threads*, is a book about postcolonial thinking and contemporary textile practice (Bloomsbury, 2015) accompanied by a travelling exhibition *Migrations*.

Please forward to colleagues who may be interested; no need to book for **Jessica's lecture** but email Liz with any queries.

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