

Barbican Shop announces *On Bike Building* – celebrating the craft of designing and building custom bikes

1 Apr – 27 May 2018

www.barbican.org.uk/make
shop.barbican.org.uk

Barbican Shop announces *On Bike Building* – a series of talks, demos and displays celebrating the craft of designing and building custom bikes. The series will run from 1 April to 27 May, and forms part of *Make! – A season of contemporary craft* in the Barbican Shop, which allows visitors to explore traditional crafts with a contemporary twist.

With the revival of craft and the growth in the popularity of cycling there has been a renewed interest in the production of bespoke bikes, with a new generation of frame-builders emerging to meet this demand. *On Bike Building* will showcase these builders, including displays by **Hartley Cycles**, **Isen Workshop** and **Saffron Frameworks**; a live frame-building demonstration in the Barbican Shop by **The Bicycle Academy**; and a special panel discussion on 3 May featuring all of the frame builders involved in the series.



Images - Andrew Denham of The Bicycle Academy; Caren Hartley of Hartley Cycles

The series is part of *Make!* – the Barbican Shop's first ever season of events. Curated by the Barbican's retail team in partnership with **Crafts** magazine, the season seeks to challenge people's perceptions of craft by showcasing contemporary makers who are helping to redefine its meaning today. The season will also continue the work of the Barbican Shop in supporting independent talent, offering makers a platform to reveal the inspirations and techniques behind their work.

The Barbican is a leading international arts and learning centre, and the demonstrations and displays for *On Bike Building* will take place in the recently expanded Barbican Shop. Designed by RIBA Stirling Prize-winning practice Allford Hall Monaghan Morris, the 330 square metre shop is spread over two floors, providing room for events and programming that see the shop become an extension of the Barbican's foyer spaces and a destination in its own right.

Programme information:

The programme for *On Bike Building* is as follows, with tickets and further information available via <https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2018/series/on-bike-building>

Bike Building demonstration with The Bicycle Academy

Sun 1 Apr 2018, 12–5pm, Barbican Shop

Free

Andrew Denham from **The Bicycle Academy** will provide a series of demonstrations throughout the day on how to build a bicycle frame. The Bicycle Academy specialises in teaching frame-building and providing courses for novices, enthusiasts and professionals. The Bicycle Academy also design and produce a range of frame-building tools.

On Bike Building: A panel discussion

Thu 3 May 2018, 7–9pm, Frobisher Auditorium 1, Barbican Centre

£8

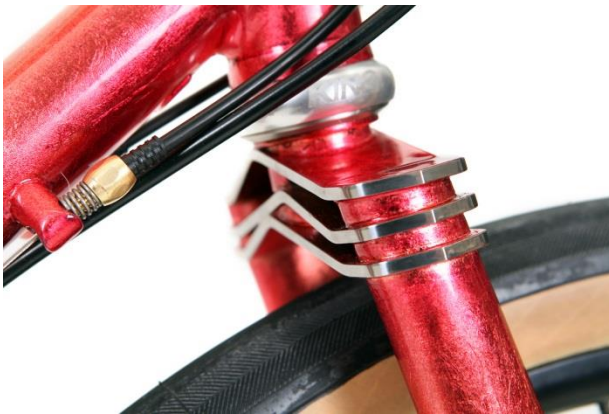
A panel discussion hosted by **Andrew Denham** of **The Bicycle Academy** and featuring five of London's best known bespoke bike frame builders – **Adeline O'Moreau** from **Mecredi Bikes**, **Caren Hartley** from **Hartley Cycles**, **Matthew McDonough** from **Talbot Frameworks**, **Matthew Sowter** from **Saffron Frameworks**, and **Tom Donhou** from **Donhou Bikes**. The panellists will talk about how the business and craft of bike building has changed in recent years, including the fresh appreciation for handmade, personalised frames following the revival of craft and increasing popularity of cycling. The discussion will also look at how the panellists own unique skills and backgrounds have shaped their bike designs, and will conclude with a post-talk Q&A session.

Hartley Cycles and Isen Workshop displays

Thu 3–Tue 8 May 2018, Mon–Sat: 10am–9pm, Sun: 12–8pm, Barbican Shop

Free

Show bikes by **Caren Hartley** of **Hartley Cycles** and **Isen Workshop** will be displayed in the Barbican Shop following the *On Bike Building: A panel discussion* event on 3 May. From a small workshop in south London, award-winning frame-builder Caren Hartley creates bespoke bicycles uniquely tailored to each client, with signature silver embellishments hinting at her fine art/jewellery/metalwork background, and will be displaying her [Copper Leaf Light Tourer](#) bike. And Isen Workshop (a newly launched collaboration between Caren Hartley and **Matt McDonough** of Talbot Frameworks) will be displaying their [Isen All Season Road](#) bicycle, designed in line with their ethos of creating beautiful, handmade bikes that incorporate new technologies into traditional frame building.



Saffron Frameworks display

Mon 21–Sun 27 May 2018, Mon–Sat: 10am–9pm, Sun: 12–8pm, Barbican Shop

Free

Saffron Frameworks is a south-east London based frame builder with a passion for designing and creating beautiful but functional bicycles, and will be displaying a show bike in the Barbican Shop from 21 to 27 May.



Products:

A selection of products from makers involved in the *Make!* season are available to buy from the Barbican Shop, including a book by **Matthew Sowter** from the *On Bike Building* series:

Made in England: The Artisans Behind the Handbuilt Bicycle by Matthew Sowter and Ricky Feather

Published by Push Projects

222 pages, hardback book

ISBN: 978-0957366800

£35

Made in England is a book by frame-builders, about frame-builders. It takes a unique look at the world of bespoke frame-building by showcasing the artisans in England who craft these bicycle frames. The authors **Matthew Sowter** and **Ricky Feather** travelled around the country along with talented photographer **Kayti Peschke** to interview the people who are leading this industry. Each artisan shares their methods, passions, skills and quirks, and through these intimate conversations express what makes them unique in this international art. The book showcases exquisite photography of the frame builders and their working environment, contrasting the raw, rough workshops with sleek images of the beautifully finished final products.



ENDS

Notes to Editors

Barbican Shop

Level G & M, Barbican Centre

Opening hours: Mon–Sat: 10am–9pm, Sun: 12–8pm

Prices are correct at time of going to press

0207 638 8274

shop@barbican.org.uk

shop.barbican.org.uk

Press Information

For further information, images or to arrange interviews, please contact:

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About the Barbican

A world-class arts and learning organisation, the [Barbican](http://barbican.org.uk) pushes the boundaries of all major art forms including dance, film, music, theatre and visual arts. Its creative learning programme further underpins everything it does. Over 1.1 million people attend events annually, hundreds of artists and performers are featured, and more than 300 [staff](#) work onsite. The architecturally renowned centre opened in 1982 and comprises the Barbican Hall, the Barbican Theatre, The Pit, Cinemas 1, 2 and 3, Barbican Art Gallery, a second gallery the Curve, foyers and public spaces, a library, Lakeside Terrace, [a glasshouse](#)

[conservatory](#), conference facilities and three restaurants. The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre.

The Barbican is home to Resident Orchestra, [London Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Orchestra, [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Ensembles the [Academy of Ancient Music](#) and [Britten Sinfonia](#), Associate Producer [Serious](#), and Artistic Partner [Create](#). Our Artistic Associates include [Boy Blue](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), Deborah Warner, [Drum Works](#) and [Michael Clark Company](#). The [Los Angeles Philharmonic](#) are the Barbican's International Orchestral Partner, the [Australian Chamber Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court and [Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble.

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About Crafts magazine

Crafts is a bi-monthly magazine offering an unparalleled insight into the changing nature of contemporary craft both in the UK and abroad. Each issue contains the latest news and reviews, alongside sumptuously illustrated features and challenging essays from some of the best writers around. The magazine is published by the Crafts Council, a charity which champions the UK's foremost makers and presents contemporary craft in new ways through exhibitions, publications, education programmes, and curating the national Collection.

@craftsmagazine