New Designers 2017 Part 1 -
New Designers Awards presented by Keith Brymer Jones

Part 1: 28 June – 01 July (Awards Preview 28 June)
Part 2: 05 – 08 July (Awards Preview 05 July)
Business Design Centre, Islington, London, N1
www.newdesigners.com | #ND17

Keith Brymer Jones, renowned British ceramicist and judge on BBC2's The Great Pottery Throw Down, has opened the 32nd edition of New Designers and presented the prestigious New Designers Awards, tonight Wednesday 28 June.

Opening the show, Keith Brymer Jones said: "For me design is an essential part of life. We interact with design every day and it is that interactive process to a greater or lesser degree that forms an aesthetic, practical and emotional response for the user. For over 30 years 'New Designers' has been celebrating the people that take on these three fundamental issues. I have been making and designing for over 30 years, and feel immensely humbled and honoured to have this opportunity to present this year's New Designers awards."

Brymer Jones also presented the coveted New Designers Awards to this year's most talented design graduates in the fields of: textiles, fashion, costume design, jewellery, precious metalwork and contemporary design crafts.

The winning projects included knitted textiles inspired by Olympic architecture, a tableware collection inspired by edible plants found in Scotland and a broach incorporating nearly 200 hand-wound 18 carat gold springs.

The New Designers Awards, presented in partnership with leading brands and organisations, recognise the design world's rising stars. The prizes, including cash, professional advice and paid work placements of up to one year, offer graduates vital support as they embark on their professional careers. Winners also received signed New Designers Awards mugs especially designed by for the occasion by Keith Brymer Jones.

Sarah Monk, Director of New Designers, said: “There’s such a wealth of brilliant ideas at this year's New Designers that our judges have been spoilt for choice. We’re hugely grateful to our sponsors for their generous support in recognising these talented individuals and providing them with such fantastic opportunities as they take the first steps into their creative careers.”
BDC New Designer of the Year Award

Winner: Nina Butler
Title of work: Offset

Description of work: A collection of tactile, reversible, innovative sports textile designs. Nina has been inspired by Olympic architecture, including Zaha Hadid's Aquatics Centre in London and the Estadi Olímpic in Barcelona, to explore a continuity of lines through offset patterns and relief work. The series employs the bonding techniques and padded foam channels of sports footwear to create distinctive modern fabrics.

University / College / Stand no: BA Textile Design, Glasgow School of Art, T36

Winner's comment: “I'm really shocked and surprised, I've had the best day. I'd like to work for the knit innovation section of a sports footwear company. This will enable me to move to London and find a placement that will help me on that path. I love to learn, so look forward to the various consulting sessions that come with the award.”

Judges’ citation: “Nina's work is ready to go. She has designed a product that has been taken from the shop floor, taking a traditional discipline into the 21st century. Her thought process is mature, with inspiration from sports architecture to sportswear.”

Prize: £1,500, plus additional benefits as follows: £1,000 worth of legal advice from specialist intellectual property lawyers Briffa including a year's free membership to their DesignProtect insurance service / £2,000 worth of invaluable accounting and taxation advice from experts HWFisher / a dedicated ½ day focus on PR by Four Colman Getty and marketing worth £500

New Designer of the Year: Runner Up

Winner: Leszek Sikon
Title of work: Contemporary Knives and Sycamore Knives

Description of work: Sets of forged contemporary kitchen knives, each made from one piece of pattern-welded damascus steel. The blacksmith is fascinated with tools, so despite their bold aesthetic the knives have been made to be functional and practically useful.

University / College / Stand no: BA Artist Blacksmith, Hereford College of Art, JC 53

Judges’ citation: “Leszek has a great affinity with his materials. His work is a great marriage of authorial form and function. We loved the approach to material that is responsive and gives a strong narrative to the work.”

Winner's comment: “It's amazing! I never thought I would win anything here. It's definitely been a confidence boost. I will invest the money in workshop time and spent the next couple of months creating new work.”

Prize: £500
New Designers Hallmark Studio Award
Winner: Rihanah Hussain
Title of work: Sissy & Friends
Description of work: A collection of screenprints based on observations of animals and their interaction with people.
University / College / Stand no: BA Textile Design for Fashion and Interiors, Bath Spa University T19
Judges' citation: "We loved Rihanah's versatility, her use of colour and composition and her quirky style. We thought her work had a lovely personal feel but with real commercial potential"
Winner's comment: "I'm a little bit surprised but really happy. This will encourage me to keep going and develop my practice."
Prize: £500 and an 8 week paid studio placement for the winner to gain experience working in a commercial studio environment, with free accommodation.

New Designers Kingfisher Design Talent Award
Winner: Ellie Rose Smales
Title of work: Grace
Description of work: A series of hand-drawn and digital sketches on dyed fabrics, inspired by the Scottish Highlands and the rugged landscapes of Northern Europe
University / College / Stand no: BA Textile Design, Birmingham City University, T35
Judges' citation: "We liked Ellie's uniqueness, versatile designs and approach, use of colour, incredible mark-making poetic work and good narrative"
Winner's comment: "It's amazing to get recognition and to see potential in my work. Definitely the best step forward to going into industry. The work experience will be invaluable and I will use the money for a travel fund to do work experience abroad."
Prize: £1000 and a 6 week work placement.

New Designers Goldsmiths’ Company Silversmithing Award
Winner: Andrew Fleming
Title of work: Construct
Description of work: A collection of functional and decorative silverware inspired by architecture and the process of building. The designer is particularly interested in scaffolding and temporary processes, which he feels are often more interesting than the finished structures.
University / College / Stand no: Silversmithing and Jewellery Design, Glasgow School of Art, JC24
Judges' citation: "These whimsical, precise, beautiful vessels show a modern twist on ladles."
Winner’s comment: “I’m really proud to have won an award that in our community is so prestigious. The Goldsmiths’ Company represent the best of silversmithing in the UK and it’s great to be associated with them.”

Prize: One week work experience in a professional silversmithing workshop at the Goldsmiths’ Centre – with a focus on commercialising their own work / A bursary of up to £500 towards living expenses / A special Student Hallmarking Package including ten year registration at the Goldsmiths’ Company Assay Office, laser software set-up for laser hallmarking, a complimentary behind the scenes tour of the working assay office and free access to the Goldsmiths’ Company Library

New Designers Goldsmiths’ Company Award for Jewellery
Winner: Miki Asai
Title of work: Preserved Moments
Description of work: A gold broach incorporating nearly 200 hand-wound 18 carat gold springs and gold discs which vibrate to catch the light, giving a twinkling effect. The collection is inspired by intangible and fleeting phenomenon, and the Japanese aesthetic of finding beauty in impermanence and imperfection.

University / College / Stand no: BA Silversmithing and Jewellery Design, Glasgow School of Art, JC24
Judges’ citation: “Technically outstanding, this gold brooch is a modern interpretation of the historical technique ‘entremble’. Refined, enchanting and exquisite”

Winner’s comment: “It took a long time and lots of work to make the collection so I am happy to see that people like my work. I now will be more confident, I hope it will help me to be more professional and I will definitely keep making.”

Prize: One week work experience in a professional jewellery workshop at the Goldsmiths’ Centre – with a focus on commercialising their own work / A bursary of up to £500 towards living expenses, if required / A special Student Hallmarking Package including ten year registration at the Goldsmiths’ Company Assay Office, laser software set-up for laser hallmarking, a complimentary behind the scenes tour of the working assay office and free access to the Goldsmiths’ Company Library

New Designers W’innovate & Wilko Award
Winner: Sophie Hingston
Title of work: Nothing lasts, nothing is finished and nothing is perfect
Description of work: A home interiors textile collection of hand-drawn designs inspired by Japanese design principles of Wabi Sabi and Ma.

University / College / Stand no: BA Textile Design, De Montefort University, T23
Judges’ citation: “An excellent commercial collection of prints that demonstrate a varied handwriting style, using a strong palette with a confident interpretation into a range of homeware products.”
**Winner's comment:** “It's nice to get some recognition for hard work and my enthusiasm for the course and industry. Hopefully this will kick-start my career in design”

**Prize:** £1000 prize money and a two week work placement at W'innovate with a contribution of up to £500 towards expenses.

**New Designers Joules Award**

**Winner:** Chloe Hills

**Title of work:** Love-lies-bleeding

**Description of work:** A collection of hand-painted wallpaper inspired by dark foliage colours.

**University / College / Stand no:** BA Textiles Design for Fashion and Interiors, Bath Spa University, T19

**Judges' citation:** “Great use of colour, innovative collection, interesting techniques used and a contemporary take on florals.”

**Winner's comment:** “I'm really keen to work for a company like Joules. Their work has really inspired me - the mural design in particular, which I'm very keen to do.”

**Prize:** £500 and a 2 week paid work placement (to the value of £500) / A commercial portfolio review by a member of Joules Senior Design team / An opportunity to design a mural at the Joules Wells Beach pop up store.

**New Designers John Lewis Award for Design and Innovation**

**Winner:** Emma Boyd-Madsen

**Title of work:** Cirkel

**Description of work:** A collection of sculptural knitted pieces inspired by the designers' summer spent in Copenhagen and organic contemporary architecture, which uses copper, cork and wood. Circular shapes have been produced using unusual objects like hair rings, curtain rings and copper tubing.

**University / College / Stand no:** BA Textile Design, Glasgow School of Art, G36

**Judges' citation:** “Emma's knitted structures explore the typical use of textiles in interiors. Skillfully made with a sound understanding of colour, this work is full of potential and we look forward to seeing where it will go next.”

**Prize:** £1000 to support their design and an opportunity to visit the John Lewis Design team.

**Winner's comment:** “This award gives me a headstart in producing my fabrics and getting a start in the design world. I want to start making contacts and learning about manufacturing my pieces.”
New Designers Sainsbury's Home Award

Winner: Daisy Stott
Title of work: Foraged Findings
Description of work: A tableware collection inspired by edible plant and foodstuffs found throughout Scotland.
University / College / Stand no: BDes Textile Design, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, University of Dundee, T42
Judges' citation: "Daisy has a wonderful talent for bridging print, pattern and typography. There is also a great British story behind the product and her textiles. Her use of colour palette and embroidery was exquisite."
Winner's comment: "This is quite a surprise. I'm extremely honoured and it's amazing to be recognised. I think it will take me to great places."
Prize: A Prize of £500 will be awarded on the evening to one designer. In addition there will be 6 further shortlisted designers selected across Part 1 and Part 2 who will be invited to present their portfolio to the Sainsbury's Design Team. The designer selected from the overall shortlist will then be awarded a 1 year paid work placement within the Sainsbury's Design Studio with a salary of £20,000.

New Designers Style Library Award

Winner: Laura Humphreys
Title of work: Chromatic Contrasts
Description of work: A beautiful collection of hand-woven contemporary textiles, employing bespoke tonal hand-dying techniques to achieve a dynamic range of colour qualities. Ideal for soft furnishings, University / College / Stand no: BA Textiles Innovation and Design, Loughborough University, T7
Judges' citation: "Laura has a well-considered portfolio with stunning hand-painted warps and a creative use of colour, brought together beautifully with contemporary styling."
Winner's comment: "I'm overwhelmed and excited. I have always been interested in interiors so it will be great to find out how that works with the Style Library team. They're all so nice and welcoming. I'm very grateful for the opportunity."
Prize: £1000 to support career development, alongside an opportunity to gain industry experience with a 3 week internship in the Style Library studios.
New Designers Hainsworth Statement Award

Winner: Claire Tagg

Title of work: Come fly with me

Description of work: A couture collection of dresses, inspired by airline uniforms and the designer's own dreams and experience of being an air stewardess. Details include hand-drawn illustrations embody the glamour of the dream, rich textures symbolising the reality of the job and hand printed belts made from aeroplane seatbelts.

University / College / Stand no: BA Fashion, Textiles, Print, UCA Rochester, T41

Judges’ citation: "A unique and honest story, spoken from personal experience. The story translates through the design which shows how thoroughly it has been thought and executed."

Winner's comment: "I'm overwhelmed. The money will help me start my new collection; it will give me the financial security to push myself. I already know what I want the collection to look like and I'm dying to start making it. I'm looking forward to finding out more about Hainsworth on my visit to Hainsworth Mill."

Prize: The winner will be able to choose either; cash, Hainsworth cloth or a combination of both to a value of £1000 and will be invited to visit the Hainsworth Mill.

New Designers Romo Award for Innovation in Design and Colour

Winner: Amy Wain

Title of work: Emotive Lands

Description of work: A trans-seasonal collection of scarves which present careful consideration into colour and imagery to evoke emotional and sensual connections to place.

University / College / Stand no: BA Printed Textiles and Surface Pattern Design, Leeds College of Art, T14

Judges’ citation: "We were impressed by Amy’s strong concept, artistic expression, and innovative use of colour which resulted in a beautiful display of work."

Winner’s comment: "I'm thrilled to have won this award and been given an opportunity to start my career in design. It wouldn't have been possible if I hadn't come to the show. It highlights the importance of being out there pushing my work and being confident in it. I'm happy that other people appreciate what I love to do and my style of work, the colours and processes that I use. I value all stages of design development and it's great to know that other people have picked up on my skills in those areas."

Prize: £500 to support the development of a textile design career plus a paid internship of up to 6 months in Romo’s head office design studios, giving first hand, practical experience of working in the creative hub of a leading textile design house.
New Designers One Year On Award
Winner: Stephanie Holt
Title of work: UFOs, interlocking engagement and wedding rings, Colour Flash collection
Description of work: Contemporary sculptural and geometric jewellery with a tactile nature. The unusual pieces are designed with interaction in mind and have surprising elements. Stephanie’s UFOs are unique finger ornaments, colourful, wearable sculpture inspired by natural minerals. Stephanie’s interlocking rings are inspired by the strength of Brutalist architecture and represent the union of two people. The pieces in her Colour Flash collection are poppy, fun geometric pieces reminiscent of sweets.

University / College / Stand number: N/A – One Year On section
Judges' citation: “A distinct style of work and although showing three different collections, her DNA shone through. Contrasting feminine with male, bold colours without shouting and very clever solutions on the old classic of the engagement and wedding ring.”
Winner's comment: “It’s been incredible. It will give me so much exposure and gives me confidence. It’s hard to measure the far-reaching benefits of an award such as this.”
Prize: £500 Moo.com credit / Design Nation - 1 year free membership / a Showcase Exhibition at the National Centre for Craft & Design / Design Trust - 1 year free membership to The Design Trust Business Club / Plus a comprehensive online benefits package

New Designers Best Stand Award
Winner: De Montfort, JC54
Winner's comment: “This has been a great effort from both the staff and the students. Our graduates have learned a huge amount from working as a group to prepare the stand. It was important for us to balance colour and texture, and develop a simplistic approach that saw work in different disciplines presented together. Winning this award is a wonderful recognition of the effort made by all involved.”
Prize: The winning stand was presented with a trophy, framed certificate and champagne. In addition there will be acknowledgement on the awards display throughout the event at the venue entrance, acknowledgement in the event awards press release plus an image and details under award winners on www.newdesigners.com

Ends

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Notes to editors:

Prices:

Day Ticket: £16 on the door
Valid for one day visit, Thursday – Saturday of either Part

VIP Pass: £30 on the door
Unlimited access to both Part 1 and Part 2, including both Awards Previews on Wed 28 June and Wed 05 July

Preview Ticket: £24 on the door
Valid for either Awards Previews, 3pm-9pm, Wed 28 June or Wed 05 July

Thursday Late Ticket: £12.00 on the door
Valid for entry from 5pm-8pm on Thursday 29 June or Thursday 06 July

Concessions: £12.50
Valid Thursday – Saturday only.
Available to children aged 8 – 16 (must be accompanied by an adult), Senior Citizens, students and unwaged. Only available to buy on the door as proof of status must be shown.

Schools’ Day Ticket: £10 in advance
Valid on Thursday or Friday of either Part of New Designers.
Available for Year 10 and above (up to including Year 13) visiting as part of a supervised group of 6+ Must be booked in advance.

Children under 8 years (accompanied by an adult): FREE