

PRESS RELEASE

In The Loop Knitting Now

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In the Loop: Knitting Now explores the progression of knitting, a craft which has come a long way from its fuzzy image of thick socks, long shawls and embarrassing motifs on Christmas jumpers. Now there are knitting groups that meet in quirky venues throughout the country, as well as hundreds of clubs and contemporary artists intent on reclaiming the craft. *In the Loop* maps knitting's journey from solitary hobby for old maids to mainstream, contemporary trend.

Including visual essays by contemporary knitters, artists and academics, with chapters such as Rethinking Knitting, Narrative Knits and Site & Sight: Activist Knitting, *In The Loop* explores the diverse topics of knitting in art, international knitting traditions, knitting as social activism, the oral history of knitting and knitting technology—providing a fascinating insight into the world of loops, stitches and casting off!

Through case studies, essays and photographs, *In The Loop* documents the work of artists using knitting in their work, public responses to knitting over the years, the rise of contemporary knitting groups such the internationally renowned 'Stitch and Bitch' and the burgeoning popularity for 'Knit Lit' and do-it-yourself, environmentally friendly crafts.

Lavishly illustrated with images of contemporary knitting, *In The Loop* is an attractive volume with a fresh, modern and appealing design in keeping with the vibrant and creative subject matter. As such, *In The Loop* is an essential book for anyone with an interest in contemporary crafts, trends and textiles.

Jessica Hemmings studied Textile Design at the Rhode Island School of Design and Comparative Literature at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies. She has written many articles for publications such as *Bloom*, *Crafts* and *Selvedge*. Currently she is Associate Director of the Centre for Visual and Cultural Studies at the Edinburgh College of Art.

Sandy Black is Professor of Fashion Design and Technology at the London College of Fashion. She has contributed designs and articles to many publications and books on knitwear and textiles.

Linda Newington studied for her MA in the History of Textiles and Dress with the Textile Conservation Centre. In 2008 she co-organised, with Jessica Hemmings, the conference "In The Loop: Knitting Past, Present and Future".

Freddie Robins is Senior Tutor in Mixed Media at the Royal College of Art. Her recent exhibitions include "Radical Lace & Subversive Knitting" at the Museum of Arts & Design in New York and "Dress Codes: Clothing as Metaphor" at Katonah Museum of Art in New York.

Paul Whittaker is Senior Lecturer and Director of Education at the University of Southampton. He has exhibited nationally and internationally and published conference papers for the Higher Education Academy.