

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11 June 2009

## **‘Make’ a career of it: How a short course can change your life**



In response to increasing demand, [The Cass \(The Sir John Cass Department of Art, Media and Design at London Metropolitan University\)](#) is delighted to announce a new and extended programme of short and part-time courses in traditional crafts.

Over the years, these hands-on courses have acted as a springboard for many students to re-skill and even change careers, and the current economic climate has seen a surge of interest from people seeking to get back to basics.

Recent career change successes from The Cass include Alannah Currie who was in 80s group the Thompson Twins and is now an artist and upholsterer working under the name of ‘Miss Pokeno’ , and Anthony Campling, an Investment Consultant with an MBA from Harvard, who is one of a group of cabinet-making alumni with a workshop near Tower Bridge.

[Creative short courses](#) are available in a wide range of subjects including Furniture and Upholstery, Jewellery and Silversmithing, Soft Furnishing, Finishing, Restoration and Conservation and Guitar Making. They are available from introductory to advanced level and run from one week to one year, depending on the subject.

‘We’ve been running this type of course for well over a hundred years’, commented Michael Upton, Academic Leader at The Cass. ‘But with television programmes such as ‘Kirstie’s Homemade Home’ raising awareness of traditional crafts, and the recession driving many to re-assess both their career choices and priorities there’s been a real growth in interest in these areas. Students come from all walks of life. We have nurses, lawyers, scientists, journalists and finance workers seeking, at the least, a break from everyday stress and, in many cases, a chance to change direction’.

**-Ends-**

---

**-Notes to Editors-**

### **About The Sir John Cass Department of Art, Media and Design:**

‘[The Cass](#)’ is a centre of excellence for applied art, media, and design in 2D, 3D, and time-based media including digital moving image and music technology. The

Cass is internationally renowned for its distinctive brand of professional, practice-based courses, bespoke facilities and high quality teaching.

Permanent staff includes many practitioners who are celebrated in their fields and specialist visiting lecturers include industry freelancers and artists-in-residence. Fine Art lecturing staff includes Patrick Brill ( Bob and Roberta Smith), Nigel Oxley, Nico De Oliveira and Nici Oxley.

Honorary Degree recipients include Tracey Emin and James Moir (Vic Reeves), both of whom previously studied at the department, Gilbert and George, and Zandra Rhodes.

'Find the Cass', the department's annual summer show will run from the 10 – 14 June. Over 3000 pieces of work by over 800 talented students will be exhibited making it the biggest event of its kind in London Metropolitan University history.

**For more information please contact:**

**Michael Upton**

Academic Leader, Recruitment and Marketing  
Sir John Cass Department of Art, Media and Design  
London Metropolitan University

Email: [m.upton@londonmet.ac.uk](mailto:m.upton@londonmet.ac.uk)

Tel: 0207 320 1977

Mob: 07825420047