

Knotting in common

a discussion about knowledge making, collective practice
and working with fibres in the age of the 'new aesthetic'



The Branched Anemone Garden by the Institute For Figuring and Companions (from the collection of Lisa Yun Lee). Photo © IFF Archive.

Friday 15 June 2012
11am - 1pm NAB 305

FREE EVENT

Please register in advance due
to limited capacity by emailing
sociology@gold.ac.uk

Increasingly the fibre arts are being drawn into interdisciplinary conversations, including with those interested in counting, figuring and geometry – Issey Miyake's Winter 2010 ready-to-wear collection featured designs from a collaboration with a mathematician with interests in topology and knot theory. Organisations such as the Institute For Figuring have co-ordinated large scale collaborative projects which seek to enable participation in figuring through practices such as crochet and other textile handicraft. The 'Embroidered Digital Commons' project explores ideas of collective work, ownership and distribution. How might knottings, weavings and patternings be understood in the context of these interdisciplinary conversations? How do they relate to crowd sourcing and their associated aesthetics of pixelation and repetition in the representation of number and its operations?

Katie King (Women's Studies, University of Maryland & Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities) will speak on her recent work that focuses on a re-examination of Andean recording devices made out of strings and knots, and the relationship between knotting and 'counting'.

Margaret Wertheim is the co-founder and director of the Institute For Figuring in Los Angeles. The IFF promotes the public understanding of the poetic and aesthetic dimensions of science and mathematics through projects such as the Hyperbolic Crochet Coral Reef. She will discuss the Crochet Coral Reef project as a synthesis of marine science, ecological consciousness raising, feminine handicraft, community art practice, and mathematics.

Supported by



For an introduction to the claim that there is a so-called 'new aesthetic' please see *WIRED* - www.wired.com/beyond_the_beyond/2012/04/an-essay-on-the-new-aesthetic