

# Craft in Focus: 25 Years of Showcasing Excellence in Craftsmanship

## A LEGACY OF CREATIVITY AND CRAFTSMANSHIP

In the year 2000, the UK craft fair scene was saturated with events of varying quality, often featuring work that lacked authenticity and true craftsmanship. Recognising the need for a higher standard, designer woodturner Rob Chapman took matters into his own hands. Determined to redefine how the public perceived the craft industry, he launched his own event - one that would celebrate genuine creativity and exceptional craftsmanship. And so, in April of that year, Craft in Focus was born with its inaugural event at the University of Surrey in Guildford.



*"I remember in the early years, one organiser said to me, 'You are just cherry-picking the best makers.' That was true then, and it's true now - an accusation I am immensely proud to agree with.*

*I would personally like to thank all our wonderful makers and artists who have exhibited with us over the years, and of course, the visitors who have contributed to our journey and helped keep us at the top." - Rob Chapman*

The response to the launch event was phenomenal. As word spread among both visitors and makers, Craft in Focus quickly gained a reputation for staging events that stood above the rest. With such a positive reception, the fairs expanded to other venues across the UK, continuing to grow in popularity and prestige.

Now, 25 years later, Craft in Focus is firmly established as the UK's leading organiser of high-quality craft fairs. The secret to its success? An unwavering commitment to the same principles that defined its inception. Every exhibitor is still carefully selected, ensuring that all work showcased is made by the exhibitor, original and expertly crafted.



As Craft in Focus celebrates this milestone, the mission remains unchanged: to provide a platform where the finest craftmakers can present their work to an appreciative audience.