

CCANW

Art, Ecology and the Economy exhibitor information

Sean Hellman

Woodwright Designs
Ashburton

Sean is a designer-maker, working mainly in wood and occasionally with photography. He designs and makes sculptural wooden seating for indoors and out, and has been commissioned by a wide range of corporate and private customers. Sean originally studied photography and sells his own tree and landscape themed photo-prints and cards.



Sean is based in a workshop in the centre of Buckfastleigh and has one part-time employee. He occasionally takes local work-experience student placements, and has hosted European work-experience students from Totnes Language School.

His practice is committed to sourcing materials locally whenever possible eg from Anton Coaker of English Hardwoods in Hexworthy, Dartmoor National Park and the National Trust. He states the local sourcing to customers, which encourages local identity. He also sources services locally, uses traditional, non-power tools where possible and burns all wood waste to produce heat for the workshop or home. Packaging materials are sourced from other local business waste.

Sean exhibits at the annual South West Woodfair, organised by South West Forest. Demonstrations at shows and events in the making of wooden artefacts are entirely human powered, using traditional tools.

He is aiming to attract more local business by running educational courses at all skill-levels, for individuals and organisations; and to teach these skills to people outside of the area, thereby encouraging local tourism.

Five years ago he received a £300 grant from Broadband for Devon towards the design of his website. Ten years ago Sean received a grant from Working Woodlands to purchase a bandsaw.

Art, Ecology and the Economy was shown at CCANW's Project Space in Haldon Forest Park and Duchy Square Centre for Creativity, Princetown, in two simultaneous parts in Winter 2010. It was supported by Arts Council England, Devon County Council and Greater Dartmoor LEAF, incorporating funding from the EU, Defra, SWRDA and LEADER.

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Photograph: Chris Lewis