

# Winner of the Oxfordshire Craft Guild Fletcher Prize 2011



President Joanna Foster CBE

The Fletcher Prize is given annually by an appreciated, anonymous donor and is awarded to the maker of a piece of work that is considered to be outstanding through innovation and good design, and where the material of the piece is used in an exciting way.

In awarding the 2011 prize to Diana Tonnison for her work "Salted fish from Barcelona Market", the judges, Esther Browning (Executive Director Oxfordshire Artweeks) and Cherry Gray (Curator of the Oxfordshire Museum) described it as *"a sculptural ceramic piece that drew us back again and again and that we thought people will enjoy looking at in the Oxfordshire Collection of contemporary craft. It's a robust, unusual and fun piece, surprisingly different from many of the more functional pieces in the exhibition, and is craft for its own sake.*

*It looks simple at first glance and yet cleverly captures with an absolute exactness the spirit of a Spanish fish market. We loved the way the textures of the old broken wooden barrel had been recreated, with an apparent rusty edging and price tag detail, and within this the more representational sun-dried fish are laid, fluid shapes with a rich green and blue colours and layered slips and glaze, that in the right light match hues on the outside of the rustic basket. We felt that this was fitting in this time of economic hardship as, for us, it is a reflection of getting away from the aspiration of an 'ideal home' as neat perfection and celebrating the traditional in a fresh new way."*

The winner is announced during the opening of the Exhibition at the Private view. The maker is paid in full for the work. The winning piece stays in the Exhibition until its end and is then given to the Oxfordshire Collection of Contemporary Craft, housed in the Abingdon Museum. This is currently the only way in which the collection is being enlarged, making the Fletcher Prize important not only for the winning maker and the Oxfordshire Craft Guild but also for the collection.

Congratulations to Diana