

# Cornish Style

Art & Craft for International Appreciation

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## Introduction

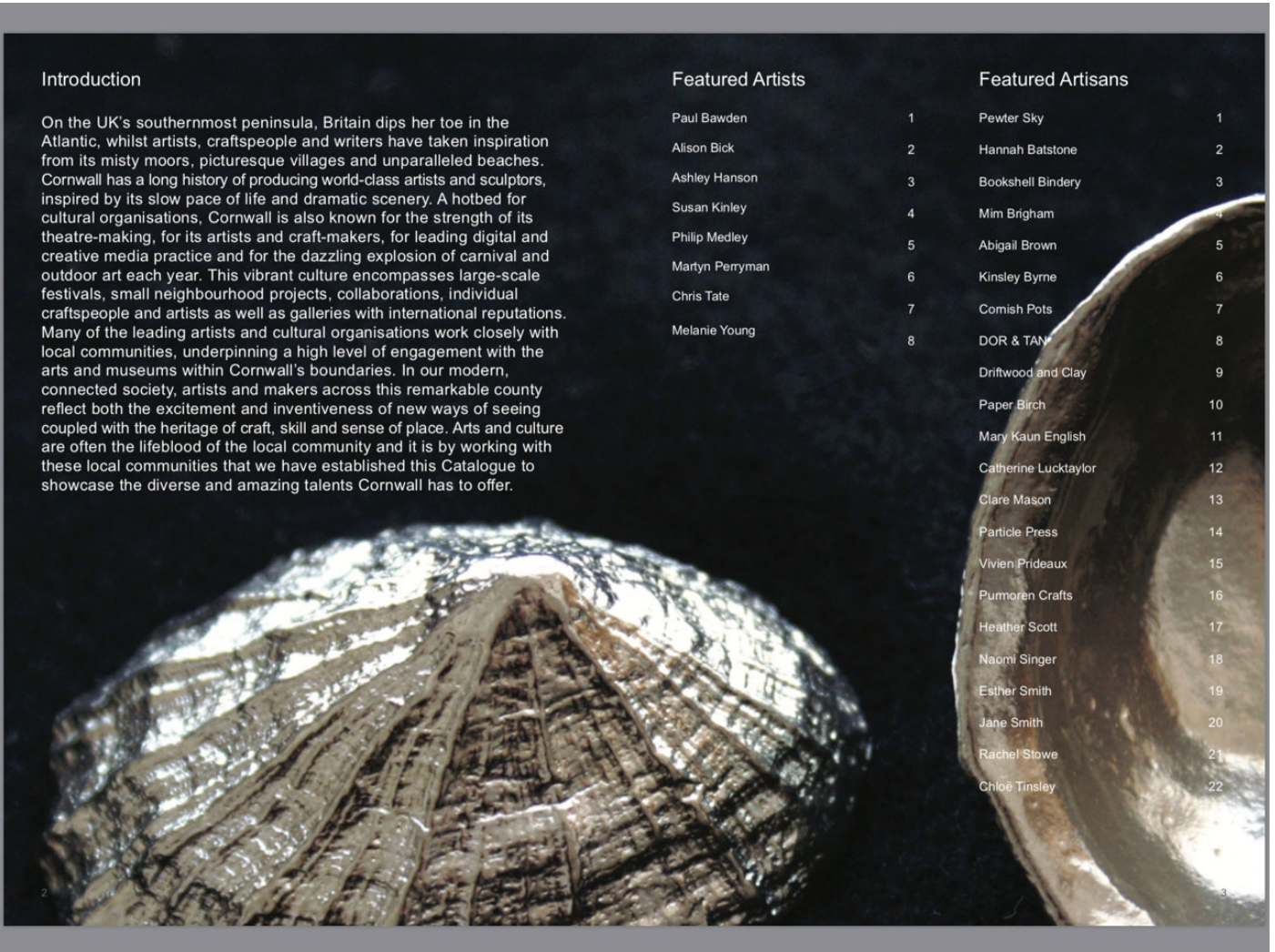
On the UK's southernmost peninsula, Britain dips her toe in the Atlantic, whilst artists, craftspeople and writers have taken inspiration from its misty moors, picturesque villages and unparalleled beaches. Cornwall has a long history of producing world-class artists and sculptors, inspired by its slow pace of life and dramatic scenery. A hotbed for cultural organisations, Cornwall is also known for the strength of its theatre-making, for its artists and craft-makers, for leading digital and creative media practice and for the dazzling explosion of carnival and outdoor art each year. This vibrant culture encompasses large-scale festivals, small neighbourhood projects, collaborations, individual craftspeople and artists as well as galleries with international reputations. Many of the leading artists and cultural organisations work closely with local communities, underpinning a high level of engagement with the arts and museums within Cornwall's boundaries. In our modern, connected society, artists and makers across this remarkable county reflect both the excitement and inventiveness of new ways of seeing coupled with the heritage of craft, skill and sense of place. Arts and culture are often the lifeblood of the local community and it is by working with these local communities that we have established this Catalogue to showcase the diverse and amazing talents Cornwall has to offer.

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## Pewter Sky

**Hand cast pewter homewares inspired by the Cornish coast.**

Growing up in Sheffield, I was always fascinated by molten metal, and an early career in computer graphics gave me a strong technical expertise in 3D design. When a quirk of fate led me to study with one of the UK's leading pewterers, I immediately found myself drawn to gravity casting, the most traditional of pewter techniques.

Gravity casting is a labour intensive process that connects me strongly to both the earth (tin) and the sea (shells), both of which are very much part of Cornwall's spirit of place.

I live and work near the sea, on Cornwall's beautiful Roseland Peninsula. My work reflects the natural elements of the Cornish coastline: smooth sandy bays, rugged slate outcroppings, pounding surf and quiet tide pools. I create the moulds for my hand-cast pieces from carefully selected shells I discover on my beachcombing expeditions. I also cast occasional pieces from exotic shells given to me by friends who know of my passion for pewter. All of my work is made entirely by hand. For each piece, I create a hand-made rubber mould and then hand pour molten pewter into it. Every item is then hand finished and polished to a mirror shine. Many of my designs are practical (e.g. pewter salt and pepper sets), which are easy to maintain but also sturdy enough to be used every day. My goal is to make beautiful handmade objects a part of people's everyday lives.

My work can be seen at fine shops and galleries throughout Cornwall including: Artisan@Tremenheere, The Byre Gallery (Milbrook) Create Cornwall (The Bedruthan Hotel & Spa), Fowey River Gallery (Fowey) and the Waterside Gallery (St Mawes). I have been selected to take part in juried shows such as the Bowood Christmas Extravaganza and the American Museum in Britain's Christmas Craft Fair and was recently shortlisted for the National Trust and Craft Council 2017 Open Call.



**PEWTER  
SKY**

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Coastal Candle Holder



Shell Place Card Holders



Clam and Oyster Set



Scallop Plate



Cornwall Salt and Pepper Set



Scallop Bowl



Tide Bowl

*All of my work is made by hand from modern pewter, which is more than 95% tin. Tin has been mined in Cornwall for thousands of years and I am proud to be carrying on the Cornish metal-working tradition. Modern pewter is lead free and food safe, with a warm and lustrous glow. It has all of the beauty of silver but none of the maintenance, making it the perfect material for modern living. Modern pewter also makes the perfect 10th anniversary gift, which is traditionally associated with tin. Shells are one of nature's most amazing creations. Their beauty appeals to everyone - who hasn't brought a special shell home from a trip to the beach? I have been told that people buy my pieces not just because of their artistry, but because they evoke happy memories of days by the sea. The wonder and joy of nature are my inspiration, and I aim to bring that same sense of joy to people through my work.*

*Phil Atkin*



Limpet

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