

The Matter of Material at Turner Contemporary

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This symposium celebrates the exhibition Entangled: Threads & Making that contains work of over 40 international artists, 19 nationalities and over 100 objects. Taking over three years to put together and formulate and even title - I did not want to put the word women in the title as I wanted people to discover the reality within the show.

Having put together this exhibition largely through ideas garnered in the studio added to the knowledge gleaned through my art history studies, both here and in the USA, I want to defend the position that this exhibition is “merely” about making.

Lucy Lippard famously wrote in 1970 “I thought artists had to have big, professional looking spaces. I found women in corners of men’s studios, in bedrooms and children’s rooms, even in kitchens, working away”. It is true and what also needs to be looked at is that many of the artist discoveries included in this show worked on regardless of being known. Names like Regina Bogat and Betye Saar are not household names. The “compulsive need” to make work is central to this exhibition. All art is political – but while many of the objects displayed, use the materials, often associated with craft: weaving, sewing, crocheting and knitting yet I would argue the central idea behind it is not only craft and textiles but goes far beyond.