



**School:** Bath School of Art

**Researcher:** Dr Conor Wilson

**Project Title:** *Writing\_Making*

**UOA:** 32: Art and Design

## 300-Word Statement

*Writing\_Making* contains three projects, produced between March 2015 and Spring 2019, that explore relationships between language and making: *A Cup is a, A Game of JUG*, and *concerning roundabouts*.

The research is grounded in Wilson's thirty-year involvement with the discipline of ceramics and proceeds from two propositions developed through practice-based research: that skilled making, or craft, is a particularly intimate engagement between body, space and material; and that the process of making opens up modes of thought that are not otherwise accessible. Making is explored as a nexus of the complex relationships between thinking, doing and communicating.

The ongoing research 'problem' lies in voicing this intimacy and locating texts in a field that suffers from a lack of critical makers' writing. How might language open up the engagement to both maker and audience? How might engagement generate language?

The portfolio brings together two group exhibitions, a symposium presentation, a moving image piece and an artist's book. Each of these projects employs a multi-modal, interdisciplinary methodology. The methods can, broadly, be grouped into two categories:

1. Writing in: text, or language, as a *tool for*, a *material in*, or somehow as an *element of*, the making process.
2. Writing out: making exercises as *methods* for generating language, or text; as methods for giving voice to things.

These methods are brought to bear on opportunities that emerge out of professional practice, or academic contexts. This flexibility is a key element of a methodological approach that treats practice as research and research as practice. Exploring the potential of making as a means of generating writing and the potential of writing to

generate, or to contaminate, making, the methodology brings writing closer to making and generates theory *from* practice.