

# #DORCAS TAKES OVER

In collaboration with V&A Learning Academy

VENUE: Seminar Room 2, Sackler Centre



## Come & Make - Open Workshops

Friday 5 July 2019, 13.00 – 15.00 or 18.30 – 20.30

## Intimate Engagement Workshop

Saturday 6 July 2019, 13.00 – 17.00

## The Material Culture of a Dorcas Maker - Display

Friday & Saturday, 5 & 6 July 2019, during workshop hours

**FREE, but booking is essential!**



**The docking of the Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks tells part of the story of those that landed on UK soil in 1948. All the passengers carried with them textiles. Textiles tell stories and are embedded with memories but are also a conduit for extending the place of our own histories.** The arrival of Caribbean women in postmodern Britain started a new story about how textiles travelled and how this material knowledge, its aesthetic sensibilities, and culture is recorded, preserved and shared. Join Goldsmiths designer Rose Sinclair, and together discover the textile practices and spaces of Caribbean women. As part of her ongoing research Rose will invite you to explore black British craft, British crafting culture and to question what constitutes black British textiles.

*Workshops were developed in collaboration with Janet Browne, Senior Producer Audience Development, V&A Learning Academy.*

*Image credit: Natural Raffia Straw Bag, detailed with Jamaican flowers and humming bird using dyed raffia in satin stitch and butterfly using dyed raffia in decorative French knot. Kingston, Jamaica, 2016. Courtesy of Rose Sinclair*

## Come & Make - Open Workshops

Friday 5 July 2019, 13.00 – 15.00 or 18.30 – 20.30, booking essential

We are inviting makers, crafters, textile and fashion enthusiasts to create a contemporary Dorcas space at the V&A at our special **#Dorcas Takes Over Come & Make workshop** event. Come and crochet, knit, or sew, learn how to make those gold cushions, tackle a simple weave, or a series of stitches, ask those questions about being a maker or crafter of cloth, and come and share your own stories of cloth and culture! You can make yourself at home, on the sofa, around a table or on a floor cushion with other like-minded folk!

## Intimate Engagement Workshop

Saturday 6 July 2019, 13.00 – 17.00, booking essential

To participate please bring along **one** object that you can informally talk about with the group. This can be an item that you purchased, found, was given to you as a gift, or that you inherited, and be prepared, also, to make your own cloth during the session. We really want to hear about your textiles, crafting and making stories, and **you don't** have to be a crafter, textile artist or maker of cloth or clothes to take part.

## The Material Culture of a Dorcas Maker - Display

Friday & Saturday, 5 & 6 July 2019, during workshop hours

A display from Rose Sinclair's archive of Dorcas made and inspired memorabilia, ephemera and precious keepsakes will be available for participants to view during the workshop sessions.

### How to get involved?

Choose a date and sign up for your **FREE** place by emailing [j.browne@vam.ac.uk](mailto:j.browne@vam.ac.uk) quoting **DORCAS**, and clearly stating the **DATE & TIME OF YOUR CHOSEN SESSION(S)** in the 'subject' line, no later than **Wednesday 3 July 2019, 21.00**.

### Rose Sinclair

Rose Sinclair is a Design Lecturer (Textiles) in the Dept of Design at Goldsmiths, University of London, and Programme Leader for the BA in Creativity, Design and Learning. She also teaches Textiles/Fashion and Design related practice at Postgraduate level. Rose has authored several textile books, her most recent being *Textiles and Fashion, Materials, Design and Technology (2015)*. Her current research focusses on black British women and their crafting practices, and aesthetics. She uses installations and crafting workshops to discuss issues of gender, authenticity, identity, and settlement. She is a PhD candidate and her research focusses on Dorcas Clubs and Societies and their use as a catalyst for black women to navigate safe textiles making spaces. She reflects on how the history of the Dorcas Clubs and Societies can influence contemporary textiles networks and practices.

Email: [r.sinclair@gold.ac.uk](mailto:r.sinclair@gold.ac.uk)

Twitter: @dorcassstories