

# THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

Krasny, Tom (2017) Made in UK: Xenophobic propaganda, treatment of "enemy aliens" in Britain prior and during WW1, and the Mackintosh 78 Derngate commission [dissertation]. The Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow.

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## **APPENDIX: The Evolution of *Made in UK* by Tom Krasny**

Originally from Tel Aviv, Israel, my artistic practice surveys the psychological and social implications and long-standing effects of conflict on individuals and communities. By merging contemporary art practice, craft techniques, research and dialogue with experts from war-related organisations and cultural institutions, my work investigates and subverts associated traditional craft techniques often through juxtaposition with my interest and skills in engineering “thinking things” – interactive, kinetic objects. This teases out the relationship and personal narratives between artefact, crafts-maker and viewer. My work acts as a form of symbolic reparation, an important contemporary concept - actively changing and broadening ways to open dialogue and acknowledge and commemorate hidden or under-exposed histories of global conflict and crisis.

In 2016, whilst an MFA student at Glasgow School of Art, I visited the permanent display at Mackintosh House at the Hunterian, where some pieces of furniture made at Knockaloe are housed. Perturbed by the lack of information relating to the historic connection between Mackintosh, Bassett-Lowke who owned the furniture, and the Knockaloe internee community I began to research these facts and felt compelled to discover more, connect with related organisations and translate my findings into quality artwork to make the story accessible to a wide audience.

I travelled to the Isle of Man in December 2016, to research the Knockaloe workshops, and the 78 Derngate furniture commission, and spent a week at the Manx National Heritage library and archive learning about the Knockaloe community. As part of my visit, I went to Knockaloe Farm, which was the original site of Knockaloe camp between 1914-19, accompanied by Yvonne Cresswell, the social history curator at Manx National Heritage.

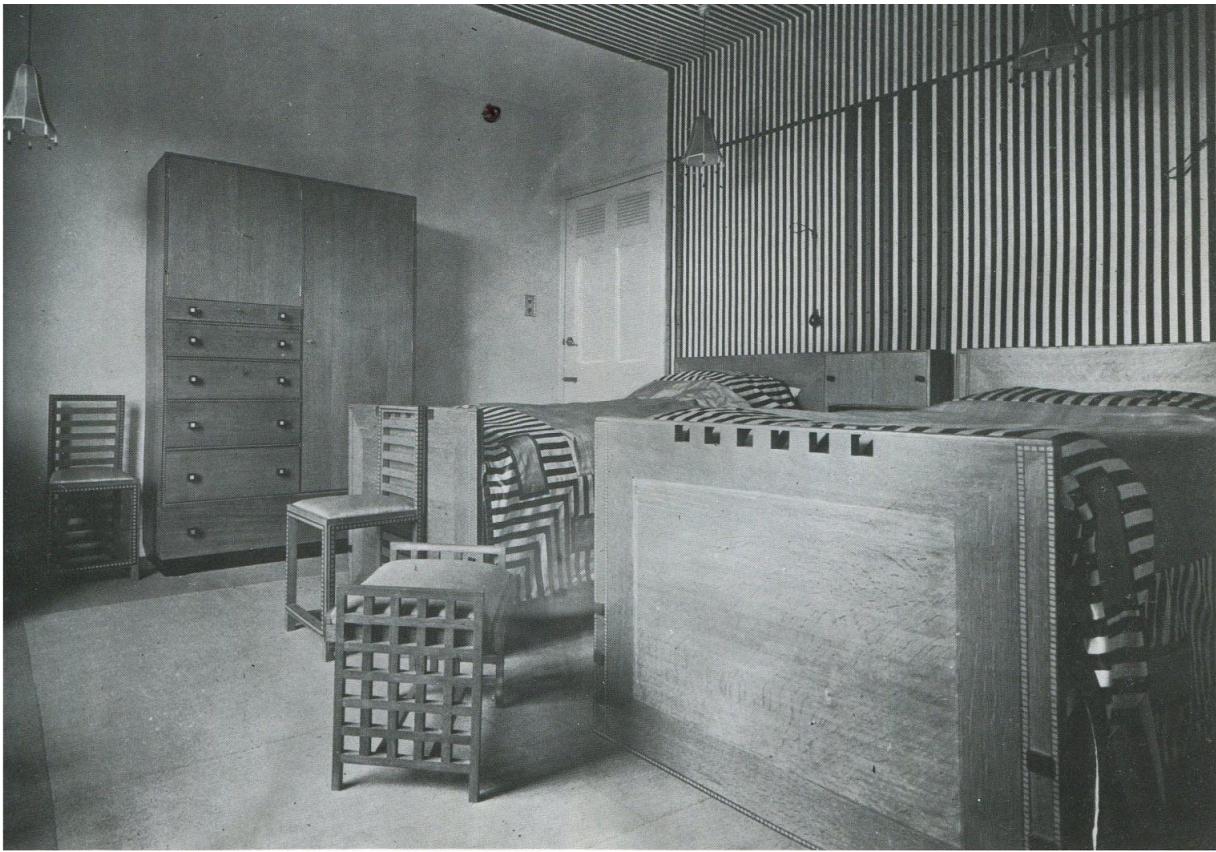
In February 2017, I visited the 78 Derngate museum in Northampton, which was the original house the furniture was built for and has now been restored and functions as a museum. I met and discussed my plans with David Walsh, curator and assistant manager, and Liz Jansson, the house manager. Both were very supportive and were able to offer access to visual and written resources.

I went on to create a body of work inspired by and based on my research - a bronze cast of the wooden stool, which was a part of the 78 Derngate furniture. I self-funded and donated the bronze cast to the Knockaloe Foundation. The sculpture was permanently installed in August 2018 as an outdoor memorial commemorating the lives and skills of the interned craftsmen and the connection between Mackintosh and Knockaloe. The Isle of Man Arts Council funded the installation costs, including travel and accommodation expenses, Isle of Man Government (Department of Environment Food and Agriculture) contributed the hard landscaping of the site and plinth.

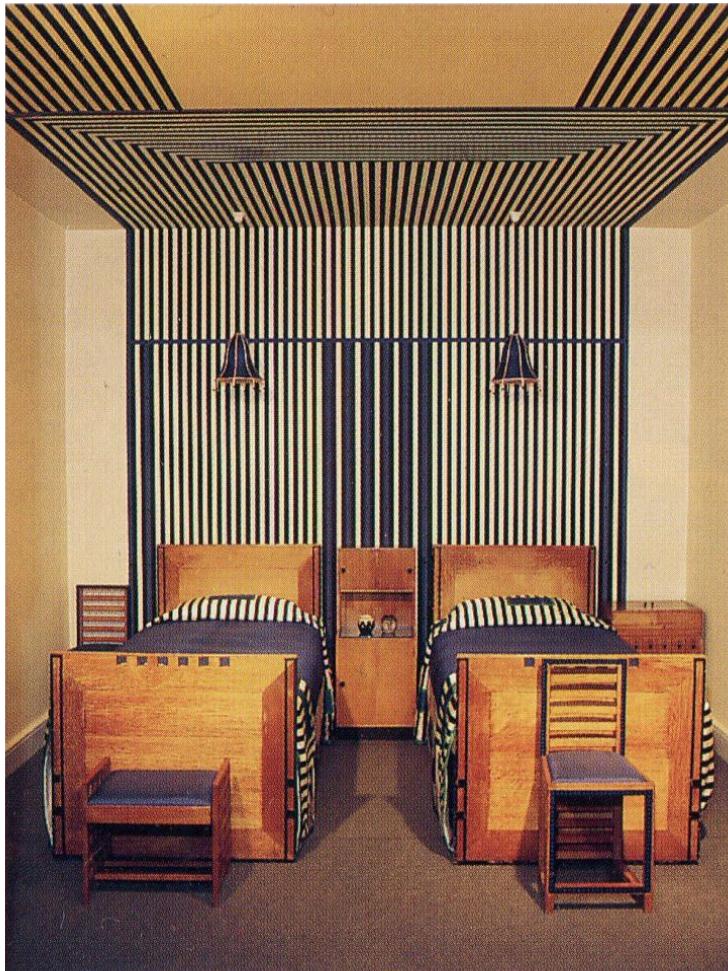
### Project Key dates:

1. Research visit to the MNH library and archive: 29th November- 3rd December 2016
2. Made in UK exhibited as part of the Glasgow School of Art Degree show: 7th-18th June 2017
3. Grant received from The Isle of Man Arts Council: 13th July, 2017
4. Site visit prior to the memorial sculpture installation : 11th-17th December, 2017
5. Made in UK exhibited at 78 Derngate Museum: 1st February- 22nd April 2018
6. Memorial bronze sculpture installed at Knockaloe Farm, with the support of DEFA, The Isle of Man Arts Council and The Knockaloe Foundation: 27th-31st August 2018
7. Centre For WW1 Internment and the Garden of Barbed Wire launch conference: 27th-30th March 2019.

Project Images:



The 78 Derngate guest bedroom furniture suite, as it appears in Roger Billcliffe's Charles Rennie Mackintosh, The Complete Furniture, Furniture Drawings & Interior Designs, Guildford: Lutterworth Press 1979 (p.27).



A reconstruction of the 78 Derngate Guest bedroom- as displayed at The Hunterian Art Gallery in Glasgow. The dress table stool which inspired the bronze sculpture for Knockaloe farm appears at bottom left corner. Image taken from C.R Mackintosh- The Chelsea Years, Hunterian Art Gallery, 1994 (p.28)



**Spy Fever, Tom Krasny, 2017.** The sculpture is a 1:1 scale Bronze cast of a chair designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and built , in 1916-17 by carpenters imprisoned at Knockaloe WW1 internment camp.



**Charles Matt's Mallet, Tom Krasny, 2017** hand-operated Automaton, 41X23X16 cm. Mechanism built by Philip Lowndes  
Charles Matt was the foreman of the Cabinet Making workshop founded at Knockaloe.



**Oh Knockaloe, Tom Krasny, 2017.** Stencilled wall piece. The first layer from a nine-layer stencil design by C.R Mackintosh, designed for 78 Derngate in 1920 (left small image). The work refers to Knockaloe camp's barbed wire fences. The title is taken from a satirical poem written by a Knockaloe internee, written under the pseudonym "Old Sepp", describing camp life.



**Made In UK, Tom Krasny 2017.** Installation view of the exhibition as displayed at The Glue Factory in Glasgow, as part of the Master of Fine Art Degree Show, Glasgow School of Art, 7th-18th June 2017.



**Made In UK**, display in 78 Derngate Museum (W.J Bassett-Lowke's study), Northampton 1st February-22nd April 2018



## Made in UK

01.03.18 - category: Mackintosh | Exhibitions | Featuring 78 Derngate | #Mackintosh150

Visitors to the Charles Rennie Mackintosh House at 78 Derngate this spring can view a contemporary artwork which explores Mackintosh's lesser-known connection to a WW1 internment camp at Knockaloe on the Isle of Man. This unique story provides further intrigue and interest during the 150th anniversary of his birth.

Tom Krasny is a Glasgow-based artist, working mainly with Sculpture. Her current project, 'Made In UK' began in 2016 and has received research assistance from the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow, Manx National Heritage, Isle of Man and the team at 78 Derngate. She created a body of work based on an historical event tying together Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Wenman Joseph Bassett Lowke, and German civilian internees at the internment camp, Knockaloe which operated between 1914 and 1919. The completed artworks were first exhibited at the prestigious Glasgow School of Art Degree Show in 2017. We are honoured that 78 Derngate has been chosen for their second public display.

Tom's work asks to draw visitors' attention to the fact that pieces of furniture designed by Mackintosh for 78 Derngate and other Northamptonshire properties and ordered by Wenman Joseph Bassett Lowke, were built at Knockaloe camp's cabinet making workshop by members of the internee community, between 1916-1917. [ [Link to external image](#) ].

One of the artworks exhibited, 'Spy Fever', is a bronze cast of a wooden stool which was part of the 78 Derngate guest bedroom furniture suite. The original stool was acquired by the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow and is displayed there. Tom was granted both permission and funding from The Manx government, to install the sculpture permanently at Knockaloe Farm, which is the historical site for Knockaloe internment camp. The public sculpture will serve as a memorial for Knockaloe craftsmen, and will be incorporated into the Knockaloe visitor Centre, an ambitious interpretation project led by Alison Jones and the [Knockaloe Foundation](#). The centre is planned to launch in March 2019. The installation of the sculpture is planned for August 2018. These evocative contemporary works and their exhibition at three sites form a moving reflection on an extraordinary period in British history.

Tom Krasny, Made In UK  
1 February - 22 April 2018

**News Item about Made in UK in 78 Derngate Museum, Northampton, 2018.** Full listing on 78 Derngate's website:  
<https://www.78derngate.org.uk/page17/blog/files/39aee3a1fc644d27bfe43ef17f0ed386-36.html>

Spy Fever Sculpture installation At Knockaloe Farm, Isle of Man, August 2018



Tom Krasny (left) with Shaun Gelling - Forestry, Amenity & Lands Department of Environment, Food & Agriculture Thie Slieau Whallian



Vicky Crellin- Events and Communications Coordinator Knockaloe.im (left), Alison Jones -Founder, trustee and senior researcher, Knockaloe.im (right) and Tom Krasny (centre).



Left to right: Richard Jones, Alison Jones, Tom Krasny,



**Spy Fever, 2018** Installation view, Knockaloe Farm, Isle of Man. The surrounding garden is to be developed and maintained by the local charity ([www.knockaloe.im](http://www.knockaloe.im)), and will be unveiled to the public when the Knockaloe Visitor Centre, Database and Digital Archive of WW1 Internment formally opens to the public in March 2019.



Online posts from The Knockaloe Foundation about the installation of *Spy Fever* in August 2018



Glasgow Mackintosh  
October 11 · 0

A few months ago we profiled the work of artist, [Tom Krasny](#) and her project "Made in UK"- which included a bronze cast of a stool designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and built by WW1 German civilian internees at Knockaloe Camp, Isle of Man. The original stool is part of Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery's collection.

The work travelled to our friends at [78 Derngate](#) between February-April 2018.

We delighted to announce that the sculpture is now installed at Knockaloe farm, Isle of Man. The farm housed the former Knockaloe Internment Camp between 1914-1919, and where the chair was built in 1916/17.

The project has been made possible with the generous support of the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA), the Isle of Man Arts Council, and the Knockaloe Foundation ([knockaloe.im](#)).

The surrounding garden is still to be developed and maintained by the local charity ([www.knockaloe.im](#)), and will be unveiled to the public when the Knockaloe Visitor Centre, Database and Digital Archive of WW1 Internment formally opens to the public in March 2019.

Congratulations for all your hard work Tom!



Knockaloe Internment Camp Isle of Man shared a post.  
September 5 · 0

It has been a pleasure to work with [Tom Krasny](#), her passion, enthusiasm and knowledge are so infectious. This is a beautiful project and we are looking forward to revealing all next March when the Knockaloe Visitor Centre opens to the public.

