



1 Nature of the Investigation:  
**'THE FOUND FATHER'**  
I believe that Fatherhood, as well as motherhood should be marked and celebrated. A strong bond between both parents ( of either sex ) has huge benefits for baby, mother, father and society. Fathers need to reclaim the role that was lost to them in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

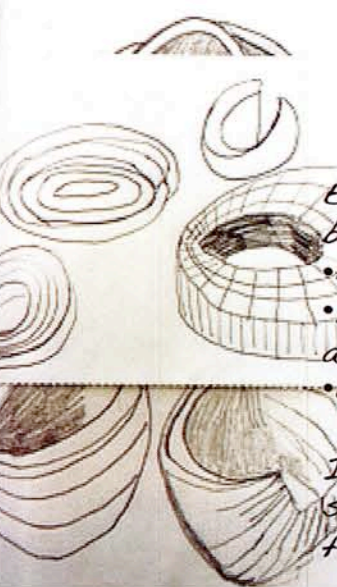


The man with the child in his heart

2 In what way is it new?  
• Making a material contribution to the way in which fatherhood is seen in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.  
• Relevance to current issues in society - AIMH UK Conference Sept 17 "Working effectively with fathers during The perinatal period"



5 Inspired by Grayson Perry's approach to his Brexit pots ( he sourced images and text from the public ) I decided to use 'focus groups' of first time fathers. Dads talked about their skills and passions that they wanted to pass on to their child. I incorporated these ideas in the design and decoration of my work.



3 Skin to skin contact  
Encouraged by the NHS due to it's benefits:  
• Regulates breathing  
• Improves immunity to infection and gut health  
• Enhances bonding.

I looked at ways in which skin to skin can be referenced in my forms.



4 I have taken the rattle form due to its

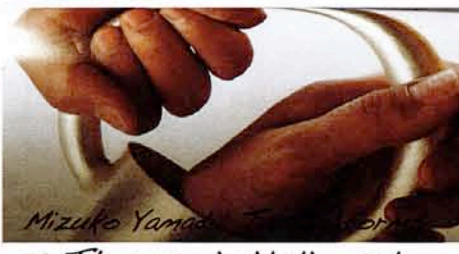
historical relevance - rattles have been given as gifts to new parents for hundreds of years - and made it contemporary in the form of rattle jewellery for men. They could be used in a celebration of fatherhood / to entertain an infant.



6 The large mens' rattle jewellery reminded me of buoyancy aids.

Finding old fishermen's floats in a junk shop made me want to take this idea further and incorporate it in my work - floatation / support are important concepts relevant to

new fatherhood. Support groups and classes for men have been set up to help new fathers through this rite of passage ( Interview with Dave Perrins: founder of the Brighton Dad's course. ) I wanted to make a musical rattle necklace based on these float forms that both parents could share - each ring's decoration depicts skills, interests and qualities that the Dads want to pass on to their child. The chain form is also highly symbolic. Necklace for two - encourages play and closeness



Mizuko Yamada

7 They are invitations to touch and physically connect. Yamada is looking for new reasons for the existence of jewellery and I guess that I am doing the same thing - I want my work to encourage PLAY and CONNECTION between a father and his child because this is how men bond. (this point highlighted in focus groups)

8 Colour theory research: colour choices are completely subjective and partial to experience and culture. However interesting to note that babies see black and white tones only for first few weeks. The first colour they see is red



Hella Jongenius. Exhibition at the Design Museum: Breathing colour

Colour was also important to the focus group and was often used to depict emotions / qualities that they would like to pass on such as red for strength



The edge of the ring reminds me of the folds of a baby's skin

9 Making a ceramic swing from a mould of a rubber ring, feels very symbolic too - like training wheels on a bike rubber rings support you until you find your confidence.. Clay emphasis the dads' vulnerability.

10 Methods I am exploring the issues of new fatherhood through the creative process of making - looking at symbolism, form and function. My ideas are influenced by the views of the new fathers whom I interviewed. I am particularly interested in their need to bond in an active way with their new born and in their desire to pass on their positive qualities, philosophies and interests. As a 'new Grandmother I feel particularly invested in this topic. I aim to make objects that encourage joy, play and closeness.



11 Materials and Techniques



Necklace with rattle shapes for baby to play with when held close- black/white

- Found objects used as models
- Models made from plaster (made on lathe / cast in balloons).
- Plaster press moulds formed
- Objects made from modelling clay / crank clay and paper porcelain.
- Texture incised
- Matt and shiny earthenware and stoneware glazes.
- Attachments - rope / leather

glaze tests

