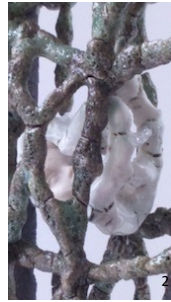




1 Nature of the Investigation: 'THE FOUND FATHER'
I believe that new Fatherhood, as well as motherhood should be marked and celebrated. A strong early bond between both parents and newborn baby (of either sex) has huge benefits for baby, mother, father and society. Western Fathers need to reclaim the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



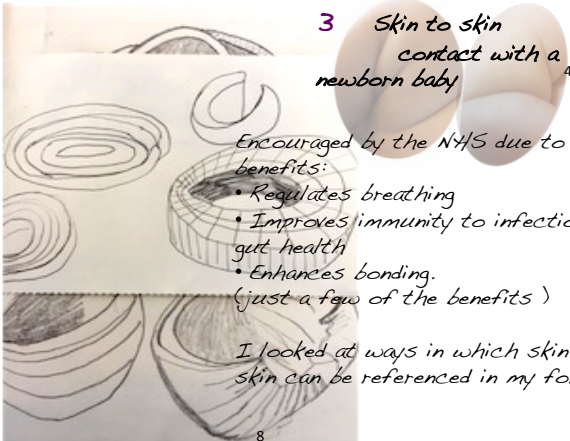
'The man with the child in his heart'

2 In what way is it new?

- Making a material contribution to the way in which fatherhood is seen in the 21st Century.
- Relevance to current issues in society - AIMH UK holding a 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 of infants. 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.

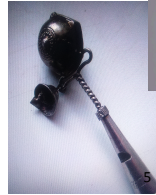


3 Skin to skin contact with a newborn baby

Encouraged by the NHS due to it's benefits:

- Regulates breathing
- Improves immunity to infection and gut health
- Enhances bonding. (just a few of the benefits)

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 both in a celebration of fatherhood and to entertain an baby.



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.



7 Mizuka Yamada's

jewellery are imitations 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 PLTY 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 Jongerius. 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 coloured bangles reflect the colours that the new fathers chose.

glaze tests



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

Challenges the traditional idea that support has to be provided by the man. 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



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 emphasises the dads' vulnerability which the focus group men discussed feeling when their baby was born.



11 Materials and Techniques



Necklace with rattle shapes for baby to play with when held close. The Mother could wear the rattle on a chain during pregnancy (reference to the Mexican bola . Dad can wear the necklace to soothe the baby who will be used to the sound.

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.