

Skidders take part in launch of award-winning Cecil Beaton Collection during London Design Festival

Skidders, the soft furnishing and interior design retailer based in the heart of Tunbridge Wells, is participating in the launch of the new 'Sketchbook' collection of fabrics and wallpapers from the Cecil Beaton Fabric Collection.

Widely accepted as one of the 20th Century's pre-eminent contributors to art and design, Cecil Beaton dressed the stars of stage and screen with unequalled style and elegance then photographed them to create iconic images.

Created by Beadesert, the 'Sketchbook' collection immortalises Beaton's drawings from his 1954 book, 'The Glass of Fashion' as repeat designs for fabric and wallpaper. Hugo Vickers, Beaton's biographer, will be giving a series of illustrated lectures during the London Design Festival (19-27 September 2009) to give a fascinating insight into Beaton's life and work.

Skidders is hosting the second date in the lecture series on the evening of Wednesday September 23rd at the popular Tunbridge Wells eatery 'Relish!' which is adjacent to Skidders in Camden Road.

"We are very excited about the event," said Jane Stollery, owner of Skidders. "The 'Sketchbook' collection, which has already won an award for Best New Fabric Print by Living Etc magazine, features flapper-styles from the 20s, 1950s couture, laid-back sailors, glamorous Edwardian hats and a wonderfully surrealist interpretation of Greta Garbo's eye.

"The evening lecture is limited to just 70 seats, so customers who are interested in a first-look at these unique fabrics and wallpapers, as well as learning about Beaton through extracts from his diaries and seeing examples of his work, need to book tickets early."

Following the launch, Skidders will be displaying a selection of the fabrics and wallpapers in-store, and will also be offering advice and



placing orders for customers. The full collection can be seen at www.cecilbeatonfabrics.com

Andrew Ginger at Beadesert, said: "We are delighted that the Collection will be featured in Skidders, which is highly regarded in the area by discerning consumers with an eye for good interior design. Their hosting of this lecture evening is the perfect 'aperitif' to those we are organising for the London Design Festival launch, which as well as a fantastic display of the new 'Sketchbook' fabrics and wallpapers will include an opportunity for visitors to have a photograph taken of themselves in a classic Beaton-esque portrait style. We are encouraging people to dress up for the photographs and hope, in Beaton's own words, they will 'be daring, be different, be impractical...' - if so it will be a great success."

Tickets for the Tunbridge Wells lecture evening are available from Skidders on 01892 510030 at a cost of £20, which includes a drink and canapés. Skidders is located at Spencer Mews, 20 Camden Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2PY. www.skiddersoftunbridgewells.co.uk

