

Caroline Richards

Caroline Richards is a weaver with a passion for wool. Texture and handle are of paramount importance in her work, achieved through exploiting the design possibilities offered by the diverse character and versatility of British native wools.

Richards originally trained and worked as a paintings conservator. This experience refined her eye for colour and nurtured an interest in textiles and costume while working on historical portraits. After having to discontinue this work due to a solvent allergy, she re-trained in textile design and thus developed a fascination with wool and its processing.

As a hand-weaver, Richards employs traditional techniques and skills, including wet-finishing, and uses the freedom of the hand process to create one-off functional pieces. Her own dye blends, often based on observations of the natural world, are used to create visual appeal.

Her work is mainly for interiors, comprising bedcover/wall hangings and blankets, as well as upholstery cloth, but extends to woollen and worsted scarves and shawls.

Education

MA Contemporary Crafts, Surrey Institute of Art and Design, 2003
BA (Hons) First Class, Woven Textile Design, Surrey Institute of Art and Design, 1999

BTEC HNC Design - Handwoven Textiles, Bradford Community College, 1998

Selected Exhibitions

Solo Exhibition, Hastings Museum and Art Gallery, 2015

Campaign for Wool, Southwark Cathedral, London, 2014

Christmas Show, Rye Art Gallery, Rye, East Sussex, 2013

Awards

2nd Prize, British Wool Award, Bradford Textile Society Design Competition, 2020

Commendation, British Wool Award, Bradford Textile Society Design Competition, 2019

Commendation, British Wool Marketing Board Award, Bradford Textile Society Design Competition, 2015

First Prize, British Wool Marketing Board Award, Bradford Textile Society Design Competition, 2014

Presidential Prize for Ingenuity of Entry, Bradford Textile Society Design Competition, 2013

First Prize, British Wool Marketing Board, Bradford Textile Society Design Competition, 2013