

Jilli Blackwood

Jilli Blackwood specialises in the creation of the “unpainted painting”. She creates in the medium of embroidery, weaving and hand-dying, working from her unique colour sense when dying her natural yarns and fabrics which make up her woven and embroidered paintings. Blackwood wishes to create the unexpected and delight the viewer’s eye but ultimately her goal is to make those looking question the function of fabric. Blackwood’s process of art and craft is an intense, complex and time consuming practice. The sense of beauty and symbolic quality in this work is created by the touch of human hand.

Blackwood believes that her inspiration ‘comes from above like a bolt of lightning; it feels like magic is at work’. She wishes she could say that her inspirational source comes from nature, that would be easier to explain, but this is not how it happens. Instead, she is constantly aware of the relationship between herself and the work, which is an expression of her inner state. Working on two or three pieces at a time, amalgamating the disciplines of embroidery and weave on a single work, is a freeing experience.

Education

BA (Hons) Art and Design, Glasgow School of Art

Awards

Tartan Design for promotional celebration of Scotland, Heathrow Airport London - 2015

Design of the parade uniforms for The Scottish Team opening ceremony, Commonwealth Games, Glasgow - 2014

Director of Costume, The Flag Handover Ceremony, Commonwealth Games, Delhi - 2010

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Travel Bursary to New York, VisitScotland 2005
Short-listed for The Balvenie Artisans Award 2004
Development Grant, Scottish Arts Council. Travel Bursary to Chicago,
Scottish Arts Council - 2002

Selected Exhibitions

Naked Craft, touring Canada and Scotland 2015 - 2017
The World Anti Doping Agency (WADA), The Athlete's Village,
Commonwealth Games, Glasgow - 2014
The Force of Memory, The Compass Gallery, Glasgow and touring
- 2011
The Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show, Philadelphia, USA
The Knitting and Stitching Show, London and Harrogate
Collect, Saatchi Gallery, London - 2010
Meet Your Maker, Artist in Residence, National Museum Scotland,
Edinburgh and touring
Julies Artisans' Gallery, New York City, USA - 2008
Threaded & Shredded, Julies Artisans' Gallery New York USA -
2005
Private Exhibition of Textiles, Los Angeles USA - 2004

Selected Publications

Slash and Show, Selvedge Issue 72 - 2016
Realities of being a Designer, Selvedge, Issue 70
Well Plaid, Sunday Herald Life Magazine, The Herald - 2014
Scotland Sunday, Spectrum Magazine - 2012
Threads of Emancipation, Craft arts International, Nov
Embroidery, Weaving the National Identity, May/June - 2011
The Girl in The Hat, Surface Magazine USA, Summer - 2007

Collections

Victoria & Albert Museum, London
The National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh
Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum, Glasgow

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Embroiderers Guild, Hampton Court Palace
Aberdeen Art Gallery, Aberdeen
Fairmount Hotel St Andrews
United States Government, US Consulate, Edinburgh
St Andrew's House, Scottish Government, Edinburgh
West of Scotland Cancer Centre, The Beatson Gartnavel, Glasgow
South & East Belfast Healthcare Centre, Belfast
Biocon, Bangalore, India
The Celtic Opus, Kraken Publishing, London, UK
Standard Life Aberdeen formerly Aberdeen Asset Management London,
The Peak Group, Aberdeen
British Telecom Headquarters, Edinburgh