

The 62 Group of Textile Artists Committee Meeting

12 midday Saturday 14th March, Royal Festival Hall, London

Attending members:

Debbie Lyddon (Chair), Elizabeth Tarr, Emily Jo Gibbs, Hannah Lamb, Jane McKeating, Daisy Collingridge, Isobel Currie

1. Apologies for absence:

Imogen Aust, Richard McVetis, Catherine Dormer, Nigel Cheney, Louise Baldwin, Lucy Brown, Sue Stone

2. Minutes of last meeting.

Approved.

3. Committee jobs and changes

Emily Jo Gibbs and Jane McKeating agreed to continue as senior members and the vote to approve was carried.

4. Finance- Elizabeth Tarr

ET is keen to use online banking in future and asked approval to set this up with the bank- Committee approved this. Note: this would be in addition to, not instead of, the option to use cheques.

A discussion was held about how the banking process could be kept secure and transparent and it was agreed that the Chair would have to approve online transactions (in line with counter signing cheques protocol) and that a paper trail would be kept.

Action- ET to apply for online banking.

ET also needs to link to PayPal account.

Current balance is £11,612.32

It was noted that this is a lot of money and a discussion was had on possible uses for some of it.

Suggestions included:

- Bursary for individual members exhibiting abroad (possible payback- giving talk to the Group, articles for the newsletter?)
- Support for education/teaching/outreach
- A more general bursary to support any member's activity which is in line with the aims of the Group
- Reinforcing the Group's international links such as putting on an exhibition abroad.

It was noted that match funding may be possible to obtain with some options.

2 members have not renewed their subs within the allowed time.

Action: ET to confirm with DL, DL to write to those members to terminate membership if necessary and inform IC to update membership list.

5. New members update

Catherine is happy to host one of the selection days.

First selection – Mid-July, Second selection mid- to late September?

Request for volunteers to host – preferably in London, and to be on the panel. EJG volunteered and suggested 18th July.

So far one submission had been received. The deadline is not until June and more submissions are expected closer to the close date.

6a. Publicity- Hannah Lamb

HL felt that having the new post of Social Media officer had been helpful in reducing her workload, and thanked Nigel for taking it on, noting that he is doing very well in that role.

St Barbe- the Gallery have been proactive with publicity- designing a poster and informing their usual publicity outlets. The exhibition has been featured in 'Embroidery' and advertised in 'Crafts' and 'Selvedge'. HL has also contacted online listings.

New members: the call out has been put on online listings, but it was not felt that a big campaign is needed this year.

6b. Social Media- Nigel Cheney (written report submitted)

There are only 7 or 8 members (nearly all on the committee) who regularly post beautiful, relevant content. I do feel that social media could represent all members, but the other members need to come up with that content.

I do look for it to share but only one member has actively sent me something specific to promote. I do worry about sharing anything of mine unless I've shared a dozen other things first.

I am VERY open to any feedback on how I could do things better. I have tough skin, don't be polite. I want to do it better for everyone.

Actions:

DL to make list of exhibitors for 'Conversations' exhibition, and add this to the archive.

JM to send photos from workshops to Nigel, and ask when members are proposing workshops that they include images to promote them.

EJG to contact Nigel about linking Instagram posts to Twitter automatically, and using resources on the 'if this, then that' website.

DL to arrange with HL the Facebook administration level that she currently has.

7a. Public Newsletter- Emily Jo Gibbs

Latest edition has been sent out.

Need more members to share their news and send content to EJG.

EJG observed that some information sent is rather long and it may be appropriate to just put in links to the relevant websites to condense. The committee expressed its support for EJG to make editorial decisions.

Actions: DL to remind members to send newsletter content direct to EJG

7b. Members Newsletter- Debbie Lyddon

DL is concerned that the newsletter is very long and proposed only summarising Committee minutes in the newsletter. The minutes would still be made available to members on the website, but because the minutes are not approved until the next meeting there is a long period before they are available.

8a. Exhibitions and events update: Ctrl/Shift- Sue Stone (written report)

Final venue 20:21 and Scunthorpe Central

Actions:

DL to sort out gift voucher for Sue Stone

8b. Exhibitions and events report- Richard McVetis (written report)

Discussions arising from exhibitions and events report:

Conversations 2020:

Actions-

DL to ask members for help with exhibition takedown

Sue Stone to send Ctrl/Shift catalogues to St Barbe

K&S/BTB 2021:

Knitting and Stitching Show 2021- still awaiting confirmation.

British Textile Biennale: HL has made contact with Jenny Rutter, who saw the Sunny Bank Mills Show and is interested in including 62 Group in this event. The BTB theme will be about international connections/ interconnected textile trade and culture. A relevant brief for a 62 Group exhibition is needed by May for mid June announcement.

Need to check timings are not an issue: BTB should fall between London and Harrogate K&S shows, so can be promoted at Alexandra Palace.

Probably have workshops for BTB, but not K&S shows- maybe do talk and tour instead?

Action- HL to ask Jenny Rutter for more firm theme to write 62 Group brief.

Anniversary show 2022:

The Fashion and Textile Museum have a very small gallery available to the Group, in conjunction with the proposed installation. DL and RM sent them a written proposal for a larger exhibition in their bigger gallery but have not heard back and believe this will not be accepted.

There is concern that time is running out to get a good exhibition space for this important anniversary. Ideas suggested:

Having a 'trail' of small galleries around London or nationwide.

Using the small space in F&T to show a small work by each member, plus a larger exhibition elsewhere.

HL suggested approaching Salts Mill in Bradford, who may be amenable and have a lot of space.

(Note: some of their spaces are not invigilated: if this is the case members need to be told so that they can make informed judgements on what or if to submit)

CD has approached Jessica Hemings who is willing to curate the anniversary exhibition and write a catalogue article for £1500. She wants to use the theme 'the Future of Textile Art'.

Actions:

DL to send the F&T museum exhibition proposal to HL

HL to approach Salts Mill about possible exhibition as outlined in this proposal.

Note: Possible exhibition and event cancellations due to Coronavirus: the Committee view is that things carry on unless advised otherwise by the venues.

9. Education Report- Jane McKeating

Education events took place for the NCCD programme as part of CTRL/Shift

20:21, Scunthorpe

Sue Stone, A Focus on Faces, 18th January

Jane McKeating, Re use /Reinvent, 29th February

Workshops arranged for St Barbes gallery

Sunday 5 April, 10-4, Colour stories - Hand stitch workshop with Jane McKeating

Thursday 9 April, 10am-4pm, Common Ground Stitch Workshop with Vanessa Rolf

Friday 17 April, 10-4: Tapestry weaving workshop with Caron Penney

Saturday 18 April, 10-12am and 2-4pm, Make a map workshop for families/young people with Vanessa Rolf

Monday 20 April, 10-4, Silk organza workshop with Emily Jo Gibbs of the 62 Group.

Updated list of those interested in running workshop. This will be amended before the next committee after a mail out to members which has been delayed due to other commitments.

An image for advertising will be asked for at the point of expression of interest for running a workshop so that Galleries can advertise more quickly, and that the 62 group can also get details out to advertise.

More clarity on the form about what the gallery will provide and what the artist will provide, and some deadlines would make things run more smoothly.

10. AOB

- Sabbatical requests:

Sian Martin- requested on medical grounds. start January for 1 year. Request approved by Committee.

Marilyn Rathbone- requested on medical grounds. Start December for 1 year. Request approved by Committee.

Actions:

DL to write and confirm sabbatical requests granted.

IC to add sabbatical dates to membership information.

- Master Calendar- Google calendar

HL has created a calendar for the website to show forthcoming event dates.

Action: HL will send link

- Diversity

It is felt that the Group should be looking at ways to encourage more diverse membership in future.

Discussion and Suggestions:

-Linking in with Arts Council/ Crafts Council initiatives to facilitate this.

-Providing bursaries for young people: (difficulty of knowing where to target for best effect, and dangers of positive discrimination)

-Outreach at each exhibition venue- have it on the agenda to be considered, find opportunities to connect eg with local schools as advised by the gallery (note this has to be done a long time in advance to fit into school calendar) This could be added to the email about workshops for each exhibition, and/or have a 'bank' of general workshops that can be used in any area.

-All should be encouraged to apply for membership- how to make it known to wider pool of artists?

-Possibly advertise via Association of Fashion and Textile Courses.

-Mentoring schemes eg for new graduates- offer as prize at New Designers.

Action: JM to add schools/college workshops to future exhibition workshop call outs

- International links.

Consider the possibility of exhibitions abroad. eg International Biennale in Holland (May be resistance to this due to past problems)

11. Date of next Meeting: 20th June 2020

