

The 62 group of textile artists Committee meeting minutes Sat 13 March 2021 Zoom gathering

1 Attendance

Who was there:

Debbie Lyddon, Elizabeth Tarr, Richard McVetis, Hannah Lamb, Emily Jo Gibbs, Isobel Currie, Anna Gravelle, Sally Spinks

Who sent apologies:

Catherine Dormor, Jane McKeating, Caron Penney, Louise Baldwin

2 Minutes of the last meeting

Approved – no issues raised

3 Finance

Little activity this last year because of Covid has resulted in a healthy bank balance with the only costs being attributed to the website and postage. Current balance is £13,705 plus an additional £607 in Paypal.

Potential spend later this year on expenses for BTB and, of course, the bursary when this goes ahead.

4 Membership

Isobel reported that Rachel Gornall was not continuing in the group. Debbie wished her well on behalf of the group.

Sabbaticals:

Penny Burnfield will be unable to make work for BTB because of a recent bereavement – a 1 year sabbatical was agreed from Feb 2021.

Marilyn Rathbone is returning from a sabbatical but will be unable to make work for both the BTB and Conversations. The committee agreed she would be able to submit to just Conversations.

Debbie to action.

5 New Members

10 potential applications members were shortlisted in 2020 but new member selection has been suspended until work can be received and viewed physically. All potential applicants have been informed. At the last committee meet it was agreed not to hold selection this coming year, so this should be signalled on the website.

Action: a date needs to be made after the next committee meeting for the selection

6 Publicity Update

Digital submission for BTB will mean that images will be available for publicity well in advance of the exhibition. Anna and Hannah to co-ordinate images/social media.

Action: Debbie to ask Caron to obtain a copy of the FTM talks to go into the archive

7 Social media

Members should tag (either @ or #) when they post to Instagram so Anna can repost under the 62group banner. Action: Debbie to include a reminder on this in the Members Newsletter.

Anna plans to include features on individual artists, including the potential for capturing their working processes. Richard to send Anna example documentation and will include a 'tick box' on the digital submission form so members can indicate they are willing for images to be used for social media.

Social media stats:

Instagram Insights

3,848 Followers

In the last 30 Days:

We gained **64** Followers

Lost **22** Followers

Overall we gained **42 Followers (+1.1% growth)** on the previous month)

1,415 content interactions in the month **+96.8%**

Profile Visits 386

Website Visits 24

Facebook Insights

In the last 30 days:

5853 Followers

46 New Followers in the past 30 days

81 content interactions

998 Post Reach

1,014 Page Reach

212 Page views

Twitter

1,902 Followers

no further data accessible

8 Newsletter & Public Newsletter update

Public newsletter has been distributed – highlighting BTB and including members contributions

Action: Debbie to contact Dave and investigate expanding our current MailChimp account or an alternative option so we can accept more subscribers. It was agreed that a mail list is important to reach dedicated followers

9 Exhibitions and Events update

St Barbe/Conversations:

Rescheduled to keep in line with Emily's exhibition 15 Jan -26 Feb 2022. Possible selection in September/October – Richard to send final details with a reminder it will be a digital submission

British Textile Biennial:

Richard chasing gallery checklist and images so he can produce the sending in forms for the digital submission via CuratorSpace. Richard is also exploring an exhibition fee.

Timeline:

Apr-May – test CuratorSpace

May – appoint selection committee

July – submission deadline

Jul/Aug - Organise installation team for 2nd selection at venue

Sept – install

Oct/Nov – exhibition open

Anniversary year:

As well as St Barbe there will be an exhibition at the K&S show in October. Richard is exploring a possible 'timeline show' of the 62 group as well as the exhibition. There is also potential scope for more FTM talks – in conversation between artists and interviews with artists.

An anniversary section on the 62group website could include links to talks and events and a possible digital archive?

Richard to come back to the committee with ideas – and explore whether we need a curator as it will be a huge job pulling together all the digital and physical elements

FTM exhibition:

Not thinking about including an exhibition from us until at least 2023 as their schedule has been pushed back. Richard to keep in contact.

FTM Lectures:

The FTM talk was scheduled for the 30th September, now changed to 14th October.

Caron hasn't received any applications and a reminder has been sent to the group to see if anybody else would like to put themselves forward. Caron will put herself forward if nobody else applies but if there are some applications, we will need a panel to pick from those applying.

Debbie to ask Caron to talk to the FTM about the possibility for splitting the income from talks on top of the artist's fee.

10 Education Update

St Barbés:

The workshops to accompany the exhibition were rescheduled and the 4 participating members were willing to run them but following the postponement of the Exhibition to January 2022 Jane will reorganise the schedule with the gallery to find suitable times for each artist.

Rosalind Goulding has been in touch to see if any members would be interested in doing online workshops ahead of the exhibition, Action: Jane to see if there is any interest

Updated list of those interested in running workshops:

A form was sent out in December to review what members can offer in terms of workshops and artists talks. Limited geographical range so we need to encourage more members to take part – including online.

The other limit was often that members would not commit as they were not sure if they would be selected so the early selection system may have a benefit on uptake and publicity.

Action: Resend form with a reminder and the addition of the online possibilities. Once Jane has the full picture, she will make sure the website gives an accurate picture.

Textile Biennial:

Jane has had initial conversations with Jenny Rutter and Jackie Jones, and they are keen to hold a variety of activities including Masterclasses, artist talks and drop-in sessions for families. They have really good connections with local organisations and community groups. The exhibition dates include a half term, so they are keen to have some events then. They are also keen for some online talks and workshops to be planned.

There will be some funding available to support artists and participants, details to be arranged with the Biennial and Whittaker staff. Jane will do a site visit and meet the team at the gallery as soon as possible to come back with a clear plan. Jane is keen to put together a good range of workshops and talks but not to over promise given workshops will be in the North West.

Additional changes needed:

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. Jane has amended the form that goes out to artists and the venue.

Community/Education bursary

Jane to work with other members on this initiative which is an important development for the education remit and whilst complex to deliver could be very important for the groups outreach and I await dates for meetings to discuss further.

Jane would like to discuss workshop participation as part of selecting new members at the next committee meeting

11 Inclusivity and diversity

Hannah reported the importance of setting up the bursary in the right way. Firstly, legally, the constitution would need to change as the group is currently unincorporated and would therefore make individuals liable for any claims or issues that arise. Other groups get round this by setting up a separate company

as a charity outside of the group – this also protects the people applying. Secondly, how does the group become a place where we attract the people we want to encourage to apply. How do we connect through others? How do we have a more open application? How might we already promote other artists from diverse backgrounds?

Frustration was expressed by some members of the committee about how long this might take, and Hannah agreed to set up a small group to move things forward as quickly as possible. Action: Debbie to ask Vanessa Rolf to be co-opted onto the committee to help take this on.

12 AOB

Anna to explore Linktree and Instagram live

**Date of next meeting:
5th June 2021**