

The 62 group of textile artists Committee meeting minutes Sat 5 June 2021 Zoom gathering

1 Attendance

Who was there:

Debbie Lyddon, Elizabeth Tarr, Richard McVetis, Hannah Lamb, Catherine Dormor, Isobel Currie, Jane McKeating, Caron Penney, Vanessa Rolfe, Sally Spinks

Who sent apologies:

Emily Jo Gibbs, Anna Gravelle

2 Minutes of the last meeting

Approved – with following changes. Caron to chase FTM for copies of Richard/Emily talks (not Hannah), Catherine's surname correct spelling and correct date for St Barbe

3 Finance

Again, there has been little to no activity with the only costs being attributed to the website, travel and postage. Current balance is £13,582.16 plus an additional £679.82 in Paypal.

Action: Debbie and Elizabeth to confer over transferring money from Paypal to bank account

4 Membership

Nothing to report.

Action: A few members emails are bouncing back even though details are correct. Sally & Isobel to resolve offline.

5 New Members

The delayed selection meeting to be held at Catherine's house – 11.30 on 31st July. Panel – Debbie, Catherine, Richard and Sally, plus one other.

Action: Sally to write to members to ask for a further volunteer.

Action: Catherine to write to potential members to ask them to send work.

Action: Catherine to review the process of new member application (to potentially include associate members) once this round has finished.

6 Publicity Update

Hannah's call for images for publicity of BTB saw images provided by 8 members as the early request had put people off as they don't know if they've been selected or not. Hannah has chosen strong, clear and well-lit images from Caren Garfen for the 'What's On' guide and BTB launch info as they show a clear link to the theme of the show.

A blurb for the guide has been written and a press release drafted. The title of the exhibition is "Connected Cloth: exploring the global nature of textiles". Hannah is waiting for confirmation from Jenny before communicating to the group. BTB is launching their communications mid June.

Action: Hannah is arranging a meeting with Kate Kershaw, Carl Bell and Gaynor Seville about publicity strategy for BTB. This should help to get a sense of what each organisation's role will be and how we can gain from the thrust of publicity around BTB. Hannah to liaise with Anna on our social media strategy.

Action: Richard to share a Dropbox folder with Hannah so we can keep a central repository for images and info.

7 Social media

No report but noted that Anna has been posting and reposting across our social media accounts.

8 Newsletter & Public Newsletter update

Public newsletter has been distributed by Emily.

Action: Debbie to move ahead with upgrading our current MailChimp account and once complete, liaise with Anna/Dave about call outs for new subscribers on social media and the website.

Action: Hannah to send BTB blurb for the website to Debbie who will liaise with Dave.

9 Exhibitions and Events update

St Barbe/Conversations

Dates are now 15 January -26 Feb 2022 and digital Selection will open in September/ October

British Textile Biennial

Digital Selection is now open and 3 submissions have been received so far.

1st Round digital section on July 7th – Jennifer Rutter + Deirdre Figueiredo confirmed as selectors, along with Debbie, Vanessa and Flox. A fee of £250 for Deidre was agreed.

Action: Richard to confirm exhibition opening date – new creative director at the Whitaker wants to open on the 25th. We should keep this as a soft launch and tie in with the BTB for the major launch on 1st October.

Action: Richard to chase contract from Super Slow Way and Whitaker which was sent on 14/04/2021

Action: Richard to get a quote from Yeshen and one other person to stitch the BTB films together so we can keep for the website too. Including closed captioning.

Action: A catalogue for the BTB was discussed – it was decided to wait until the Anniversary year as production is expensive and time consuming. One pagers in the gallery and a digital version will be explored instead.

Anniversary year

Richard has mailed Anna Baptiste at Knitting and Stitching Show about space for next year's anniversary show. And also emailed Catherine Dormor, to see if we can reconnect with Jessica Hemmings to explore her interest to curate the exhibition. Potential for exhibition to be based around Past, Present, Future and involve artists beyond the group.

Action: Richard - More planning required, look at archive, create timeline back from K&S 2022. Main plan is to have exhibition, website page, series of in person and online discussions, members conversations, education, invite external viewpoints.

Action: Debbie to contact Louise to see if we can visit the archive to see how this might be used for the anniversary year and on our website.

FTM Talks

Caron received 2 applications for the talk on 14th October. Both Lucy Brown and Anne Goddard have been successful. Caron has asked for images and text for publicity.

After discussion around Richard and Emily's talks and how the FTM is now using them, it was agreed that a contract to lay out the understanding of future use/timings should be set up for the talks this year. The FTM had asked permission to use Richard and Emily's footage after the talks but was not agreed in a contractual form nor an end date agreed.

We also need to agree on who the invited external speaker might be for the final in the series in 2022.

Action: Caron to liaise with FTM to contract on terms for this year and find out how many people attended plus how many have viewed on demand.

Action: Caron to ensure a link on our website to the FTM talks and that FTM link to 62group website too.

10 Education Update

St Barbes

No dates have yet been decided for the rearranged workshops. Jane is waiting to hear from Rosalyn Goulding about the best dates to fit in with the new exhibition opening.

Updated list of those interested in running workshops

A reminder was sent about responding to the request for interest in running workshops and doing talks. Online options were added to the form and 4 more responses were received.

It was noted that we don't have many people offering workshops or talks and whether we need to more careful about offering this to galleries. Hannah suggested some standard formats might help people to develop sessions.

Action: Jane to amend form to reflect different formats.

A video library of making processes, talks, workshops, etc could also be a way forward – not instead of workshops but as another option that we could offer to schools/colleges/galleries. A wider library of films (apart from just members) could be considered too.

Action: Richard to explore a video conversation with Jenny and Deidre about why they selected certain works for BTB – this could be live at the Whitaker, then online.

Action: Jane to think about hiring Yeshen to run a video making session at a networking meeting to help members make their own films.

Action: Jane to explore building up the education resource using films

Textile Biennial October – November 2021 Whittaker Gallery

A request for proposals to run workshops either in person or online and to give talks has gone out to all members with a deadline of June 6th. This is rather early and has the disadvantage of members not knowing whether work has been selected but the Whittaker Gallery are keen to get things publicised early, we are hoping some good proposals come forward.

Lynn Settrington has already made some proposals for working with the local community and is working directly with the staff following an introduction in April.

11 Inclusivity and diversity

Vanessa reported that the fees for setting up an incorporated company to run the bursary scheme would cost £2,000 pa so not a viable option. The sub-group had met, and an option of Associate Membership is being considered. An Associate Member would have the opportunity to submit work but would pay no fees at all and we could contribute to material and transport costs. Estimated at £500 per person pa. The idea would be to migrate Associate Members into full membership at the end of their term (possibly 3 years??)

Note: Debbie announced that Audrey Walker had left a sum of money in her will – more to come when we know how much but this could be used to help the Associate Members.

Action: Vanessa and the sub-group to agree - length of Associate Membership, who might mentor from the group, selection processes and avenues to encourage diverse applications and make them feel this is a place for them, financial implications projecting forward (of 3 Associate Members for 3 years). Vanessa to set up next meeting of sub-group.

Action: Debbie to draft an edit to the constitution to allow Associate Membership and send a list of what needs to be done

12 AOB

62group Chair

New Chair from end of 2021. No takers from the committee. A co-chair would be considered.

Action: Sally to work with Debbie to set out responsibilities and how they can be shared more widely as well as reiterate the benefits of being the Chair of such a prestigious group.

Digital selection

Clarification around the digital selection process. Even if members are selected at the first round (online) but their work does not meet the standards at the hanging stage and are rejected, they will lose a 'life'.

Action: Richard to be clear when communicating the results of the selection panel in July that selection won't be finally confirmed until the work is delivered to the venue in September.

Professional photographers

List of professional photographers for people to use has been considered in the past but has not yet been pulled together.

Action: Sally to write to group to ask for local contacts and the list can be held on the website.

**Date of next meeting:
18th Sept 2021**