

The 62 group of textile artists Committee meeting minutes Sat 18 Sept 2021 Zoom

1 Attendance

Who was there:

Debbie Lyddon, Richard McVetis, Catherine Dormor, Isobel Currie, Jane McKeating, Caron Penney, Vanessa Rolfe, Emily Jo Gibbs, Anna Gravelle, Sally Spinks

Who sent apologies:

Hannah Lamb

2 Minutes of the last meeting

Approved

3 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.

Textile Biennial Whittaker Gallery

A very good response from members offering a range of online and in person talks and workshops. These were all sent to Jane Williams the Education officer for the Gallery, and the initial response was to select none as she had local artist who were cheaper. However, following some discussion and a reminder of the enthusiasm by the Biennial team to hold a variety of Education events as part of the 62 group show these 5 were agreed to. A proposed 'In conversation' event was not accepted which is disappointing. Overall, the Gallery have been a little difficult to work with.

Lynn Settrington's events to make elements of a community piece using donated fabrics have been very successful in involving local groups and the wider community. The result will be part of the exhibition.

Workshops

Vanessa Rolf -Making common Ground (online)

Jane Mckeating -Hand Stitched stories

Lynn Settrington -Kantha Quilts

Talks

Emily Jo Gibbs – The Value of Making

Hannah Lamb (online) – Unravelling Archives

Rue Pigalle/Hole & Corner – virtual tour (Oct 20th)

There is concern that they are being advertised rather late. Not quite sure why there has been a holdup, but they should all now be bookable through the Whittaker website.

Films

The films were submitted, and we have 16 artist films to show. Richard has overseen this and is getting them compiled into one showreel. Jane will look into sorting a workshop out but would be interested to see what the interest would be before proceeding. Maybe raise at the AGM.

Films could be a good way of having a useful education resource for the future.

Action: Sally to ask the members if they are interested in being part of a collection of artists films

3 FTM Talks

Lucy Brown and Anne Goddard will be giving their talks on 14th October. Booking link is on the FTM website.

Caron has been in contact with the FTM and has put together a proposed contract for our artists to cover the following. She is waiting for them to confirm these terms:

On Demand Terms: Period: The talk is published 'on demand' on the FTM website immediately after the lecture is concluded for a period of 6 months when the talk will be removed.

Links: Within the text of the advertising for this lecture there should be visible hyperlinks to the 62 Group of Textile Artists website and to the individual pages of the speakers (by 'pages' we mean those dedicated to these artists on the 62 Group website).

Archive: The 62 Group will be given a copy of the talk for their archive immediately after the lecture is concluded or as soon after as is feasible and this will not be published on their website until the term of this contract has expired, (e.g. 6 months)

Previous talks: Any previous talks recorded with the 62 Group of Textile Artists will be removed before the new talk is added to the 'on demand' selection on the FTM website. No more sales will be taken for this talk and the 62 Group will add it to their website archive for free.

Action: Caron to find out how many people attended last year's talks plus how many have viewed on demand.

4 Committee

On the positive side, nobody is stepping down from the committee. Thankfully ;)

However, nobody has come forward to be the new Chair, nor for the Treasurer role. After some discussion around the Chair role, Catherine is considering taking

it on if she could rely on some support to attend events. A system of regional reps was discussed – Jane to cover the North and Vanessa the SW (with notice for childcare etc).

For the Treasurer, Debbie and Elizabeth will continue to support in the short-term as getting signatories on the account takes time. If no Treasurer is found from within the group, the only option would be to pay for the service to be provided by an external party. Debbie to look into costs and write to members as a final call out (reminding people it's like managing your own bank account and that members are required to help out on the committee as part of being in the group). Also if we don't find anybody we may have to increase subscriptions fees to cover external costs.

Action: Debbie & Catherine to talk more about the Chair role. Debbie to write to members again regarding the Treasurer role

5 Finance

There is still a healthy balance in the accounts. Current balance is £15,000 plus an additional £1,000 in Paypal. Most people had paid their hanging fees for BTB and subscriptions were starting to come in.

Elizabeth has agreed to help out in the short-term even though she's no longer part of the group. Thanks to Elizabeth. Debbie is also covering.

6 Membership

3 new members have been selected to join the Group. They have all provided GDPR consent and contact details.

Current exhibiting members: 65, including the 3 new members, 5 honorary exhibiting members, and 3 members currently on sabbatical.

Elizabeth Tarr has left the group. Hillary Bower is leaving and writing a piece for the next newsletter. Tilleke Schwarz also wants to leave. Some discussion around who and how people become Honorary members.

Action: Debbie and Isobel to review membership categories and criteria to bring a recommendation to the AGM in December.

There are several members currently on their last 'life'. As we are aggregating the results of the two exhibitions selected this year the fate of some may not be determined until second selection of the 'Conversations' exhibition, although a number will be safe after passing second selection of BTB. It was agreed that digital selection means you're in and don't lose a life even if the work is not shown for curatorial reasons.

Contact details have now been successfully updated for a couple of members whose emails were not reaching them- thanks Sally for helping to resolve this. Need to remind everyone (again) at AGM to keep details updated.

7 New Members

3 new members were selected at the panel on 31st July. Christina Hesford, Claire Barber, Marie-José Gustave.

Discussion around whether feedback should be given to those rejected at second stage selection. It was agreed to stick with the policy of no individual feedback but to add some FAQs to the website to make clear the common reasons why people fail in 2nd stage selection.

Action: Catherine to update website with FAQs

8 Publicity Update

Co-ordinating press and publicity has been a little challenging for Connected Cloth, with so many different organisations and people involved. It has been difficult to get the info about education events, which are still not listed or bookable on the Whitaker website, which seems a shame and makes it difficult to promote them.

A press release went out to Crafts, Embroidery, Selvedge and Surface Design Journal in late July.

Jo Hall has featured our exhibition in Embroidery, Sept-Oct. (p.13) amongst a preview of the British Textile Biennial. The piece features work by Emily Jo Gibbs and Hazel Bruce. It is also included in the listings in the same issue. Jo plans to come to BTB and we may get further coverage as a result. Unfortunately, she has the title slightly wrong 'Connected To Cloth' throughout the magazine.

Hannah had not heard anything back from Selvedge or Crafts, although Richard has been in contact with Crafts.

Hannah will get some online listings done in the coming weeks. If anyone has suggestions of press they would like me to contact, or perhaps invite to the PV, please let me know.

Online listings for Connected Cloth have been done for Crafts Council 'What's On' and Art Rabbit. The CC one is awaiting approval.

The Whitaker have been chased about getting something on their website and are in the process of sorting this.

As mentioned before, please can everyone ensure any publicity describes Connected Cloth as being **PART OF** the British Textile Biennial.

9 Social media

Headlines

- good engagement with social media – numbers are up
- Anna made a request to co-ordinate our marketing strategy for exhibitions so that announcements come from the group before individual artists.
- Anna exploring a subscription to a scheduling tool - this would be helpful especially around shows where there are many artists to feature. Eg Something like 'Later'

Action: Anna to bring a proposal on a scheduling tool to the next meeting

10 Newsletter & Public Newsletter update

Public newsletter has been distributed by Emily.

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

Debbie will write and send the members newsletter but asked that somebody take that on after the next meeting.

11 Exhibitions and Events update

BTB

23 Artists / 24 works

Opens 25th September (soft launch)

Set up from next Wednesday (22nd September)

Plinths / texts / all sent to gallery and is being actioned

PV October 2nd at 2pm

Showreel / film almost finished / Agreed cost £1500

St Barbe/Conversations 2022

15 January - 26 Feb 2022

Digital Selection now open – 15 submissions so far with 2 weeks to go

1st stage digital selection date confirmed as October 8th

60th Anniversary year 2022

Richard to connect with Jo Hall in November about K&S space

Catherine and Richard have visited the archive. Richard to compile info and send to Jessica to produce a timeline/story - It's a bigger job than expected but we still want this done.

(Also a reminder that our archive agreement ends next year so options need exploring.)

Action: Debbie to prepare a brief for group for exhibition next year based on a survey of the whole group as it stands now, with everyone having the opportunity to submit work. Possibly constrained in size and around the theme "Essence"

Sunny Bank Mills 2023

Richard has met with Jane Kay about potential exhibition at Sunny Bank Mills. She wants to include it in a funding application for Leeds 2023. There will need to be a brief written for group by March 2022, selection March 2023 with exhibition from July to September 2023.

Action: Committee to discuss at the Dec meeting

There is also potential for a limited number of artists for a project with Gawthorpe. Jane to pursue explore further details.

62Group at 62 2024

Possible timeline exhibition??

12 Inclusivity and diversity

A plan for Associate Membership needs pulling together including a brief, an application form, marketing, mentoring training (Sally can help on mentoring) etc.

Action: Vanessa and Debbie to draw up a proposal to send to members pre-AGM so they can vote on it.

13 AOB

No AOB

**Date of next meeting:
4th Dec 2021 (pre-AGM)**