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**62group**

**Members Newsletter  
Dec 2021**

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New Members 2021



Clare Barber

Marie-Jose Gustave

Christina Hesford

# Letter from the Chair

Dear Members

It is with great delight that I write to you as your Chair. I was introduced to creative embroidery when my children were very small by the wonderful Jane Lemon and she led me to Julia Caprara. I would not be where I am without these two wonderfully inspirational women. They both guided me towards the 62 Group, encouraging me to critically reflect upon the ways in which the members used textile as a broad language of expression. I never imagined then that I would be working with you all as Chair, but I am deeply grateful to the group, its former and current members, for all that you bring to nurturing and perpetuating what textile practice is and can be.

I want here, also, to pay a huge tribute to Debbie Lyddon, our outgoing Chair. She has done a phenomenal job in extremely difficult times in keeping the group and its plans in order and moving forwards. The Networking Evenings have given us all scope to meet, to chat and to share even when the world was in lockdown and isolated us all. I spent some time in the archives at Goldsmiths in the summer and was reading some of the committee letters from the 1960s and 70s; they also craved contact and spaces to share ideas and experiences with one another and their letters bear striking resemblance to our zoom meetings now. Thank you, Debbie for all that you have brought to the group over the past few years and all that you will continue to gift us as a tremendous and talented practitioner.



In spite of all that the world has thrown at us, we have managed to stage the phenomenal show as part of the British Textile Biennial, which received fabulous reviews and social media plaudits. The work was of the highest standard that we set ourselves and there was humour, emotion and political activism on display, further emphasising the ways in which textile can speak for and of itself. We look forward now to the delayed 'Conversations' exhibition, which opens on 13<sup>th</sup> January and runs through to February.

As we start 2022, and the group's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday year, it seems fitting to end this letter once again paying tribute to our founding members, to their vision and passion. I want to thank the Chairs who have gone before me, for the ways in which they have led, cajoled and supported the members over the past 60 years and the ways in which the members have risen to each challenge, each exhibition, presenting work that acclaims all that textile practice can be and is. This is a tremendous achievement and I thank you all for making the 62 Group still the supportive, innovative and talented group it is.

With many best wishes for the New Year and all that it brings  
Catherine



# New Committee Members

Congratulate our new committee members



Chair  
Catherine Dormer



Treasurer  
Christina Hesford



New Members  
Ealish Wilson



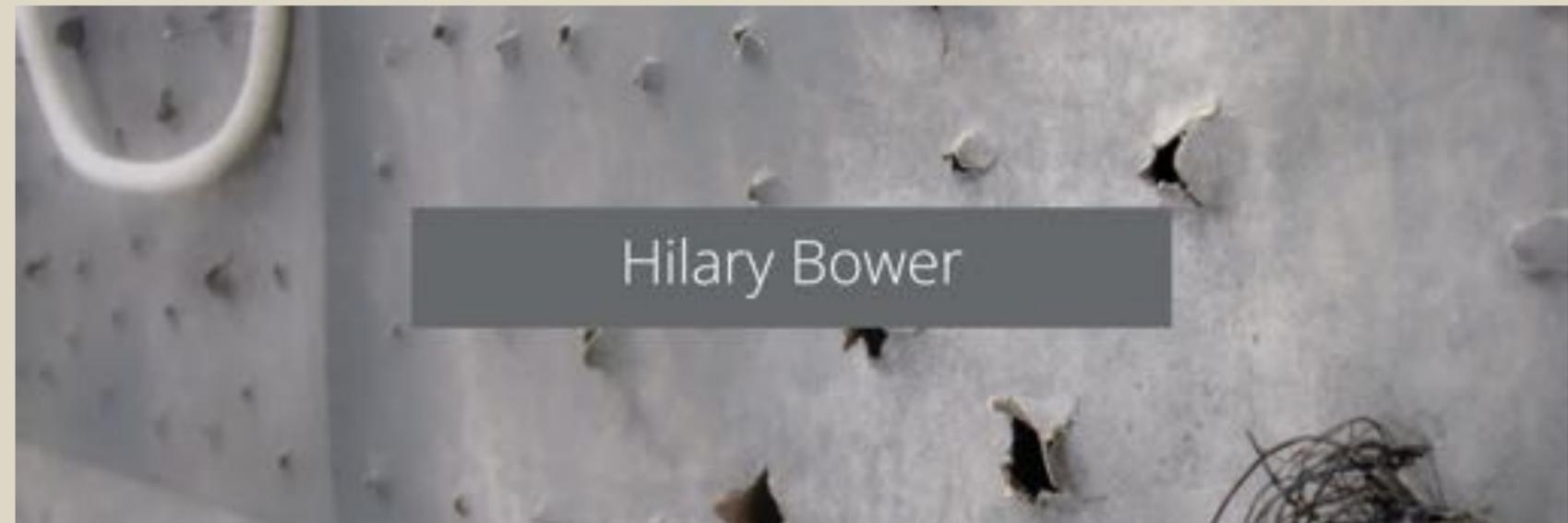
Education  
Vanessa Rolf

(Sorry Vanessa - couldn't find another photo of you online!)

## Member News

Tilleke Schwarz and Hilary Bower have become Honorary Exhibiting Members.

They have both made an outstanding contribution to the field of textile arts and we're delighted to still have them as part of our group.



## Member News

The Conversations exhibition at St Barbe came about because Emily Jo Gibbs was invited to hold a solo exhibition in the gallery and to compliment her work, the 62group has been invited to show alongside her work. Thanks to Emily for helping us pursue this opportunity in a lovely gallery.

Here, we wanted to share with members more about her take on her show.

Emily Jo Gibbs was delighted in 2019 to be invited by St Barbe Museum and Gallery to make a new body of work for a solo exhibition. Emily has made a series of portraits The Boat Builders, documenting Apprentices and their Foreman working at Berthon Boatyard in Lymington. Highlighting the Value of Making and the importance of skilled labour. A celebration of people who prefer a hands-on approach, whose knowledge and skill is gained through the doing, learnt through making. This project is being supported by Arts Council England.



Jamie Ivey – 4rd year Apprentice Shipwright 2020. 23cm x 26cm.  
Hand stitched silk organza appliqué on linen

*"I'm interested in the idea that by taking the time to slowly describe someone in stitch, you convey your admiration. Celebrating people who make things by the investment of time in making the work, a quiet, thoughtful act of care and value". Emily Jo Gibbs*

Talking to the individuals Gibbs was interested to learn the paths that led them to be Apprentice Boat Builders, the jobs that they do within the Boatyard and the tools and materials that they use. Gibbs enjoys the juxtaposition of representing traditionally masculine roles in delicate hand stitch, but also enjoys challenging those stereotypes.



Work in progress - photo credit Lol Johnson

Bradley Watson - 3<sup>rd</sup> year Apprentice Sprayer 2020 35cm x 44cm. Hand stitched silk organza appliqué on linen



## Member News

Lynn Settrington has been working on an amazing Arts Council Funded project in Manchester and Salford. Here's a peak at what she's been up to ...

Dr Lynn Settrington is known for her innovative stitched -based work with hard-to-reach groups and Safety Net is a new Arts Council funded initiative which provides the opportunity to explore an overlooked issue – that of mental health in the workplace.

An anonymous army of builders and scaffolders wearing hard hats and hi-vis jackets are ubiquitous in Manchester and Salford these days with the rash of large-scale building projects evident on pretty much every street. But do we ever stop to think about the workers and what lies beneath their tough façade?

Construction now shares the same pervasive challenges with mental health prevalent across all UK workplaces. In fact, the sector has the highest suicide rate of any profession in the UK, a fact supported by [ONS](#) figures showing that suicide rates amongst Construction workers are more than three times higher the national average.



MMU Textiles in Practice student Ellie Samson helping create the large scale letters



The Chapel St site

The large-scale banners on two building sites in Manchester and Salford raise awareness of the problem and are designed to get people talking. The installations, each measuring 14m x 13m were in place in Oct and Nov on the old education board offices on Chapel Street, Salford, owned by the [Diocese of Salford](#), and on the Deluna Apartments, 32-38 Oldham Rd, Ancoats, Manchester, owned by [Northhold Group](#).

Using the thought-provoking statement ‘There is no health without mental health’, the Chapel Street installation has been put up by Eccles-based [Tunny Scaffolding Ltd](#) and the Oldham Road installation has been arranged by Manchester-based [Northhold Group](#). A short film of the shared work will follow in the new year. This offers a lasting legacy of the transitory installation and is a collaboration with film maker, Mary Stark.



The Chapel St site



Lynn and the Tunny scaffolding team

## Online Networking meetings

The next online networking meetings are scheduled for:

Thurs 27th Jan 7-8pm (Catherine to host)

Wed 9th Mar 7-8pm (???) to host)

Tues 26th Apr 7-8pm (???) to host)

This year, we're trying a few new approaches: different days to see what suits; every six weeks instead of monthly; and having a rotating host for the meeting.

Sally will send around a zoom link a few days in advance of each session and set up the meeting, but it would be great if we could have someone to lead each session. The idea would be to communicate the topic (even if it's just a chat) in advance, so people can decide whether they wish to join.

Anybody who is up for hosting a networking session, please email Sally on [secretary@62group.co.uk](mailto:secretary@62group.co.uk)



## Dates for your diary

### **Conversations: People, Places, Materials, Objects**

St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery,  
New St, Lymington, Hampshire, SO419BH

[www.stbarbe-museum.org.uk](http://www.stbarbe-museum.org.uk)

Exhibition dates: 15 Jan - 26 Feb 2022

PV 13 Jan - book tickets [here](#)

### **60th Anniversary Exhibition - Knitting & Stitching Show**

Alexandra Palace/Harrogate

Exhibition dates: Oct - Nov 2022 (actual dates TBC)

Exhibition Theme: Essence  
(See next page for brief)

**Deadline for digital Submission - 24th June 2022**



# Important info

## Your Committee 2022

### Officers

Catherine Dormer - Chair [chair@62group.co.uk](mailto:chair@62group.co.uk)

Sally Spinks - Secretary [secretary@62group.co.uk](mailto:secretary@62group.co.uk)

Christina Hesford - Treasurer

### Committee Members

Vanessa Rolf - Education [vanessa.rolf@network.rca.ac.uk](mailto:vanessa.rolf@network.rca.ac.uk)

Richard McVetis - Exhibitions [richard.mcvetis@network.rca.ac.uk](mailto:richard.mcvetis@network.rca.ac.uk)

Hannah Lamb - Publicity [hannahjlamb@hotmail.com](mailto:hannahjlamb@hotmail.com)

Emily Jo Gibbs - Public Newsletter Editor

[emily.jogibbs@btinternet.com](mailto:emily.jogibbs@btinternet.com)

Ealish Wilson - New Members Selection

Isobel Currie - Membership [i.currie@myphone.coop](mailto:i.currie@myphone.coop)

Anna Gravelle - Social Media [studio@annagravelle.com](mailto:studio@annagravelle.com)

### Contacts

Sally Spinks [secretary@62group.co.uk](mailto:secretary@62group.co.uk) to send information to all members

Isobel Currie [i.currie@myphone.coop](mailto:i.currie@myphone.coop) to update contact details

David Pitcher [davidpitcher@me.com](mailto:davidpitcher@me.com) to update your personal page info or to login into the members area of our website

### Newsletters

We have 2 newsletters.

A Members newsletter which contains a letter from the chair, important news about 62 group events, membership news and committee reports. This is sent out quarterly in Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter

The Public Newsletter is mailed out to subscribers on 1st of March, June, September and December. It includes 62 Group news and events and individual members' news. To share your news with the public, please send details to Emily Jo Gibbs or add [emily.jogibbs@btinternet.com](mailto:emily.jogibbs@btinternet.com) to your own newsletter mailing list so she can share your news.

### Social Media

Contact Anna Gravelle [studio@annagravelle.com](mailto:studio@annagravelle.com)

Facebook @62groupoftextileartists

Twitter @62group

Instagram @the62group

### 62group website - Members area

Here you can find information and documents for exhibitions, newsletters and the full minutes of committee meetings.

# Essence Brief

## Call for Artists

### The 62 Group@60: Essence

The 62 Group of Textile Artists was formed 60 years ago in 1962 and was originally known as the 62 Group of Embroiderers. It was originally created to act as a support for its members and to promote textile art through exhibition, education, and the exchange of ideas.

The 62 Group still aims to innovate and inspire but it has expanded its scope away from only embroidery, to include all forms of the textile discipline. This exhibition, **Essence**, explores the diversity, skill, and creativity of textile art within the group in 2022.

**The 62 Group@60: Essence** will be shown at the Knitting and Stitching Shows in Autumn 2022.

#### Key dates:

Brief sent out to members – December 13<sup>th</sup> 2021

1<sup>st</sup> Round Selection - Digital Submission – June 24<sup>th</sup> 2022

2<sup>nd</sup> Round Selection – Physical – October 4<sup>th</sup> 2022

Exhibition installation – October 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 2022

Exhibition – Knitting + Stitching Show Alexandra Palace – October 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 2022

The exhibition will then tour, dates are still to be confirmed.

#### The Brief:

**Essence:** the intrinsic nature or indispensable quality of something

62 Group members should submit work that conveys what it is that motivates and drives their practice - its 'essence'. This could be anything, and could include concept, process, materials etc. Members can respond to the brief in any way they want but the connection to the brief should be made clear in their statement.

**Restrictions:** With 65+ artists exhibiting we need to restrict the size. 2-D work should be no bigger than 30 x 30 cm. 3-D work should be no bigger than 30 x 30 x 30 cm. Please also consider that exhibition will be also tour. Work should be easy to install and shipped.

The same piece of work may not be exhibited in 62 Group Exhibitions on more than two occasions. Work included in touring exhibitions may not be re-submitted for subsequent exhibitions. For clarification: a work can be made up of several modules to be hung together but must be sold as one complete work.

**Present:**

Debbie Lyddon  
Richard McVetis  
Isobel Currie  
Vanessa Rolf  
Emily Jo Gibbs  
Anna Gravelle  
Catherine Dormer  
Hannah Lamb  
Sally Spinks

**Apologies:**

Jane McKeating  
Caron Penney

**Committee:**

New committee members to be voted in at AGM

Chair: Catherine Dormer  
Treasurer: Christina Hesford  
New Members: Ealish Wilson  
Education: Vanessa Rolf



**Finance:**

We still have a healthy balance and accounts will be shared at the AGM. In the process of changing signatories on the bank account.



**Membership:**

3 new members on board. 3 member have resigned in 2021 and 2 members have lost their membership. 3 members have been granted a sabbatical. Hilary Bower and Tilleke Schwarz have become Honorary Exhibiting Members. Isobel to review categories of membership and bring a proposal to the next committee

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CHANGE YOUR EMAIL**

**New Members:**

As there are currently 57 members in the group, it has been decided to hold new members selection in 2022.

It will open in February with the selection panel in the middle of the year.



**Publicity:**

A mixed year in publicity but some amazing reactions to the BTB exhibition at the Whitaker with some excellent coverage by Rue Pigalle and Hole & corner being highlights.

**Education:**

Emily Jo Gibbs, Jane McKeating and Vanessa Rolf will be running workshops alongside Conversations at St Barbe

BTB - unfortunately some workshops scheduled were cancelled but those that did run, were extremely well received.

A proposal for film workshops for members is being considered so we can support members to make their own films as these will be an amazing asset for education and for the 62group website.

**Social media:**

There was a surge in social media engagement around the BTB exhibition.

Please keep tagging 62group in your posts ;)



**Diversity & Inclusion:**



A proposal put together by Vanessa and Debbie will be discussed and voted on at the AGM. Proposal is to start a new category of Associate Membership in 2022 to attract a more diversity in the group.

**Previous Minutes:**

Approved and will be on the members site soon

Date of next meeting:  
5 March 2022



**Newsletter:**

Dec edition has been circulated by Emily.



Our Mailchimp account has been upgraded to allow for more subscribers

**Exhibitions:**



BTB - great response to the works at the Whitaker. Thanks to everyone involved. The artist films will be a great legacy to share online in the future.

St Barbe dates 15 Jan - 22 Feb 2022. PV 13th Jan - please advertise. 24 artists with 33 works. Works will hang alongside Emily Jo Gibbs solo exhibition.

Anniversary year: Planning ongoing for K&S show Autumn 2022. Brief has been sent out with Digital selection deadline set as 24 June 2022. Theme is "Essence"

Potential being explored for Sunny Bank Mills in 2023 and FTM for 2024

Richard will be stepping back from the Exhibition role at the end of next year. We'd love someone to come forward soon so they can work with Richard this year for a smooth handover. Thanks!

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**62group**

**Have a good Christmas  
everyone!**

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