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**62group**  
**Members Newsletter**

**Sept 2022**  
*Issue 72*

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# Letter from the Chair

Dear Members

This morning I had to succumb and fish out my gloves for my cycle to work; autumn is definitely here. However, the sun is shining and London is looking splendid.

As you know the exhibition, 'Essence' at the Knitting and Stitching Show opens next week at Alexandra Palace and then in November at Harrogate. Having been on the selection panel, I can tell you there are some wonderful pieces of work and it will be great to see many of you there for a catch up. I know we have seen each other at the Networking Evenings and these have gone from strength to strength, but it is a treat to be able to see each other in real life too.

Looking ahead, we have sent out the remit for the 'Tailored' exhibition in May next year - it is such a great brief and I can't wait to see how everyone responds to it. I would encourage you to be bold in how you approach the theme - let's really tell the audiences what textile practice can yield in the hands of the Sixty Two Group.

As I write this, Richard is putting together images and designs for the K&S show and including some of the old logos and text - they tell the most exciting story of a group of courageous, ambitious practitioners. Firstly, huge thanks to Richard for his tireless work in making our shows so fabulous, but it is also a tribute to our forebears and their spirit. It is heartening in these complex times to see you all bringing our practices into their full glory and I look forward to this continuing to flourish.

Best wishes  
Catherine





# Quilt Auction by Vanessa Rolf



## **Quilt Auction**

Raising money for refuge and asylum charity

'Pieced together' is a quilt created by people seeking refuge or asylum and volunteers for Portsmouth City of Sanctuary.

Workshops, led by 62 group artist Vanessa Rolf, saw people stitching scraps together and watching their small contributions grow into a larger, beautiful whole.

Having been exhibited this summer at Aspex Gallery the piece is now being auctioned to raise money for the charity Portsmouth City of Sanctuary.

If you would like to bid for the quilt, please email [quilt@aspex.org.uk](mailto:quilt@aspex.org.uk) before midnight on Sunday 30 October 2022. Bidding starts at £100.

Dimensions: 214cm x 141cm

More details:

<https://aspex.org.uk/news/silent-auction-for-portsmouth-city-of-sanctuary/>



# 59th Venice Biennale 2022

Review by Siân Martin

All photos courtesy of Siân Martin



The exhibits at the Biennale are shown in a number of pavilions in two areas of Venice - the Giardini and the Arsenale - both beautiful to visit in their own right. The overall theme is 'The Milk of Dreams', taking the title from a fairy tale by British born Leonora Carrington.

The event was spread across Venice at many different galleries such as the Peggy Guggenheim [a surrealism blockbuster], the Accademia [Anish Kapoor] and the Palazzo Ducale [Anselm Kiefer].

As I walked around as many of the gallery and pavilions as possible, I recorded pieces that fascinated, attracted and sometimes disturbed me in different ways. It was interesting and pleasing to see so much use of threads, stitching, weaving, knotting and many references to the textile world. Here is a selective glimpse which I hope you'll enjoy.

Rosemary Trockel's thread and knitted 'pictures' are concerned with 'women's work' and the devalued status of craft in a mechanised society by encouraging the irregularity of rhythm within the handmade quality despite superficially seeming to echo abstract paintings.

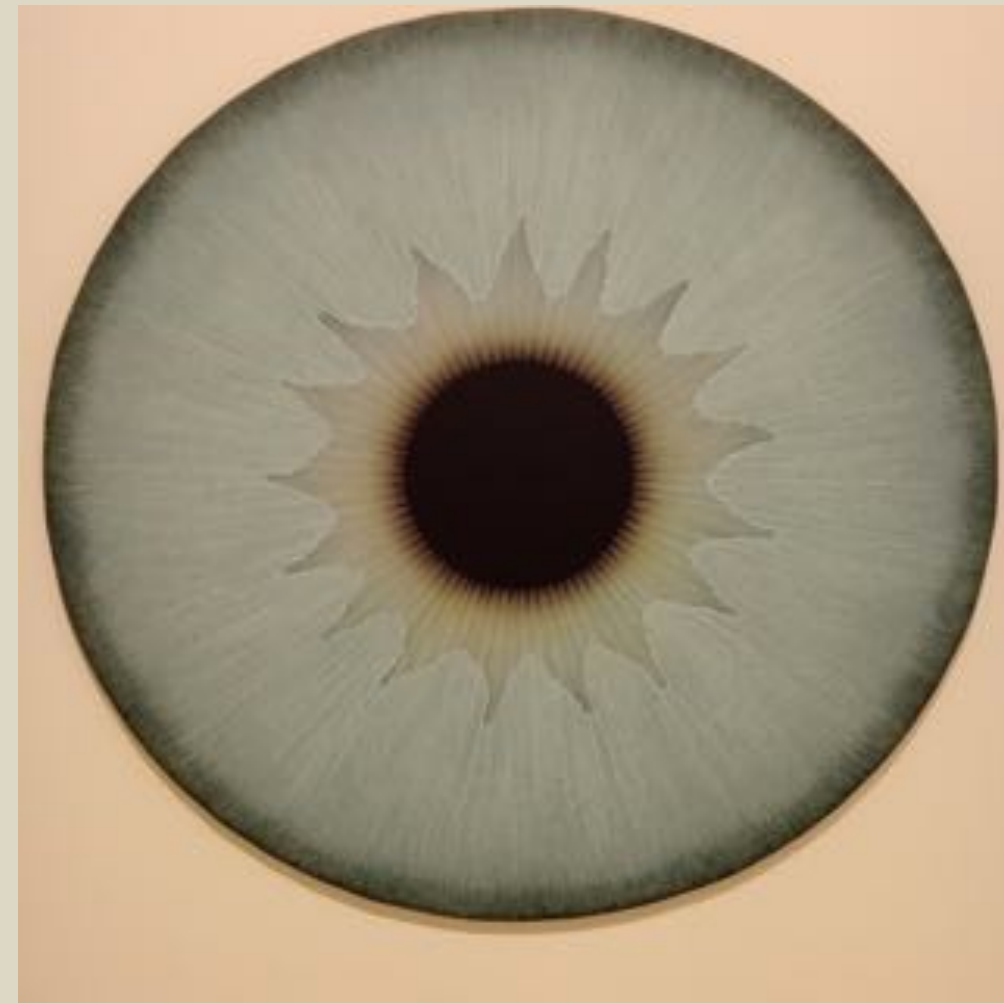
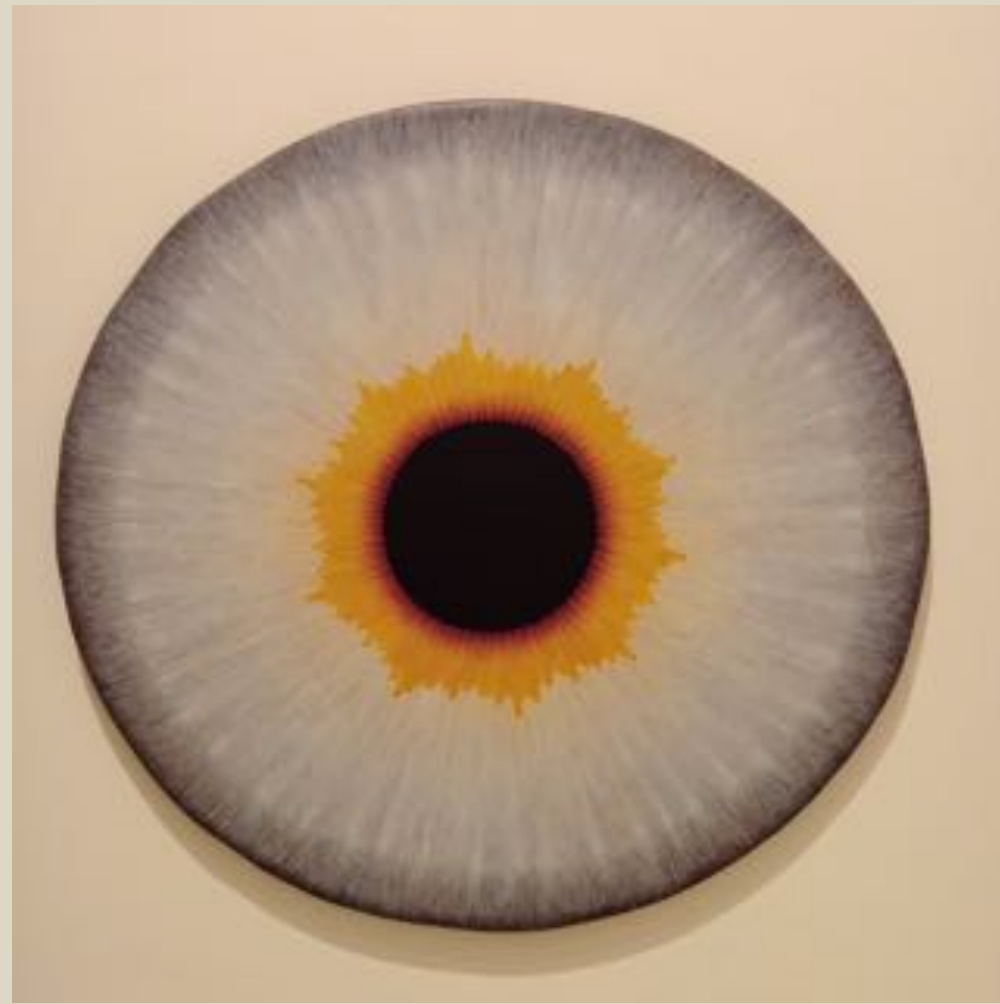


The hand-knotted natural fibre sculptures of Mrinalini Mukherjee are made of rope hues in vegetable oranges, yellows and purples. These organic, voluminous pieces seem to ooze human sensuality, some closely resembling sexual organs.





## 59th Venice Biennale 2022 cont'd



Ulla Wigger works with layers of gouache on woven medical gauze. Her interest in the human iris builds up layers of blues, greens and hazels on round canvases, taking several months per piece to complete. Ulla cites the blurring of her vision due to developing cataracts prior to treatment as the reason for her interest in the circuitry of brains and eyes. She states that she wanted to visually express this liminal state - one between clarity and ambiguity - between consciousness and sleep. Each painting shows the gradual deterioration of her vision.



Bronwyn Katz makes delicate sculptures and installations from natural and salvaged manufactured materials such as mattresses, black pot scourers and corrugated steel referring to domestic life, especially the intimate space of the bed.. Her buoyant composition here relates to ideas of conception, birth and death. Placed on the floor, the six metre wide work [Goegoe] is named after a mythical water snake which the artist says she uses as a metaphor for our contemporary relationship with the earth and other living creatures.





## 59th Venice Biennale 2022 cont'd

The Sami Pavilion celebrated several artists from Nordic countries. Two shown here are suspended sculptural forms using natural materials from their environment - grasses, skins and twigs.



The Ukraine 'Fountain' was on a wall between the art of Kosovo and Turkey (below) represented by this collection of brilliantly coloured op-art carpets.



## 59th Venice Biennale 2022 cont'd

The Polish Pavilion told the history of Poland in a colossal, three-tiered textile frieze based on the Renaissance frescoes in Ferrara. These textiles were created to display around the walls of a large space which included trompe l'oeil pillars. These were made entirely in applique by a young Polish artist, Malgorzata Mirga-Tas and three co-workers. The history of Poland runs around the top of the frieze, a zodiac cycle of in the middle layer and beautifully observed figures showing sequences of everyday life from birth to death in the lower band.





## 59th Venice Biennale 2022 cont'd



This final piece caught my eye as I was leaving the Giardini area, mainly because of the beautiful shadows it was creating. I didn't record the artist or the title of the work, but I couldn't stop walking around it and enjoying the effects it was creating.







# Essence - Knitting & Stitching Shows London/Harrogate

## Promotion

[Check out some lovely graphics](#) for the upcoming show on the right. Please use these when promoting on your social media - help us get the word out there about our amazing exhibition in London and Harrogate.

## What's happening around the show?

Catherine will be giving a talk at Alexandra Palace on 9th Oct exploring the history and legacy of 62 Group and there will be tours of the stand some days with a sign up on stand.

## What else?

The Handling Collection will be on display for the public to explore and the film contributed to be members will also be on a loop on the stand.





# Film Workshop

Well, it seems like the film workshop and follow up Q&A sessions were a huge success. Thanks to everyone involved and for Lucy for being a patient and understanding coach.

Lucy at ProudFox has given us some impressive figures:

52 people have watched the film. It's been opened and viewed 117 times which suggests some people watched it over multiple sessions or some people watched some of it but not the entire thing

28 participants have sent video footage to the dropbox folder for Lucy to work on for the Essence film to be shown at K&S

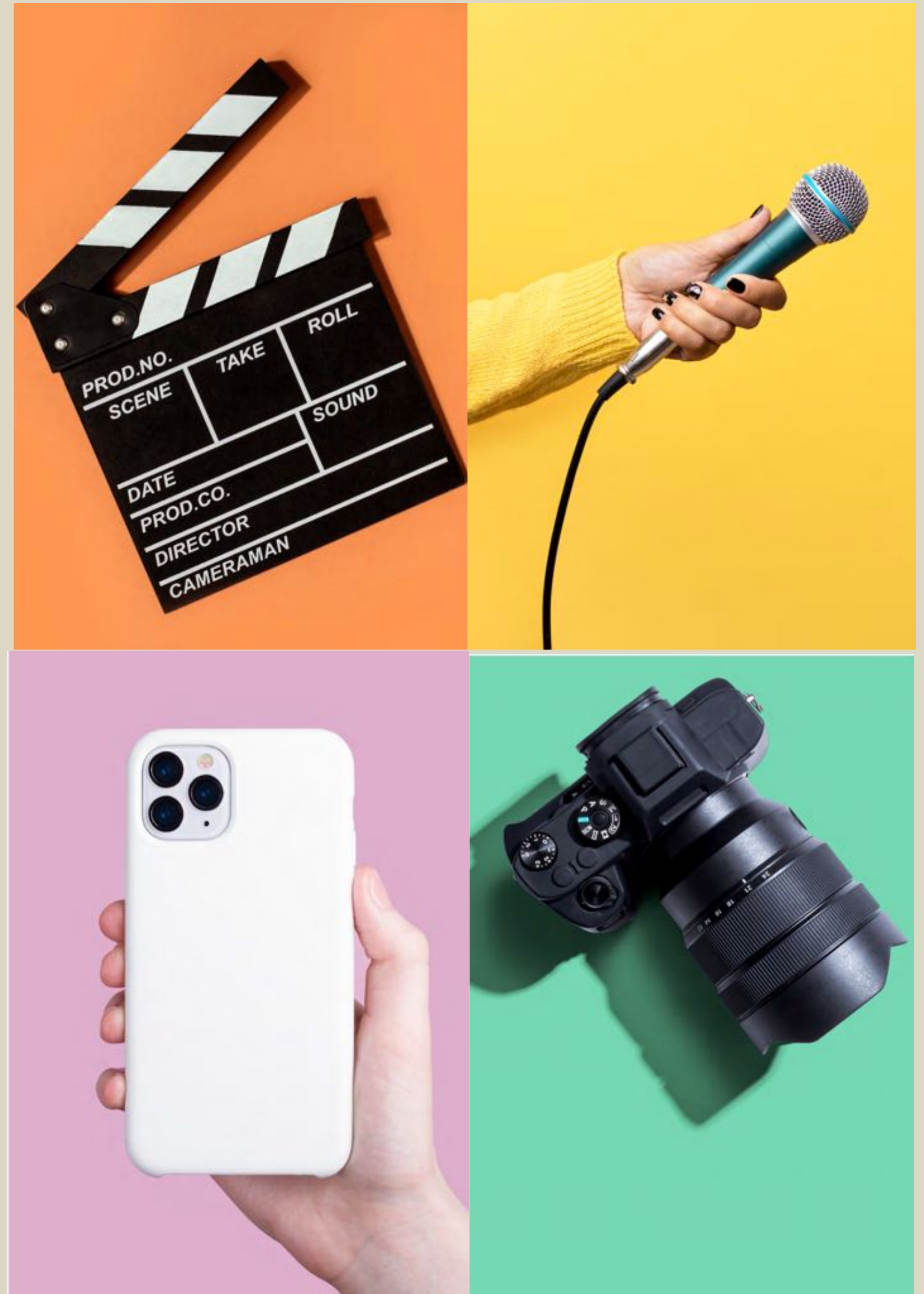
Lucy's pdf presentation and the recording of the Q&A are being added to the Member's area of the website

Please remember this workshop and all the associated materials are for 62Group consumption only and not for sharing beyond this group

Lucy also mentioned that the quality of filming was high standard, so it was a great learning experience for everyone and hopefully we're all upping our game with our filmmaking skills.

Move over Spielberg!

We're all looking forward to seeing the final K&S Essence film which will be available soon.





# 2023 Exhibition - Sunny Bank Mills 'Tailored'

Richard McVetis/Ealish Wilson

A reminder of the schedule and brief for the 2023 exhibition at Sunny Bank Mills.

Key dates and information:

- Exhibition title - Tailored
- Digital Submission opens - 1st Feb 2023
- Digital Submission deadline - 6th Feb 2023
- Artist Announced - End of February 2023
- Exhibitions dates - 6th May - 2nd July 2023
- Textile Festival - 11th - 13th May 2023 - Opportunity for members to be part of this, more details soon





# 2023 Exhibition - Sunny Bank Mills

## 'Tailored'

Richard McVetis/Ealish Wilson

### THE BRIEF FROM SUNNY BANK MILLS

We are delighted to invite the 62 Group of Textile Artists to develop new work exploring our theme 'Tailored'.

Tailored: from the Latin verb to cut and a word we associate particularly with suits and suiting. The cloth produced at the Mill was most commonly used for suits and although they weren't produced here, Leeds is well known as the birthplace of that great suit producer and supplier, Marks & Spencer.

62 Group members are invited to submit work that responds to the word "tailored" and its meaning to you and your practice. For example, is it the process of making, spinning yarn, designing, weaving, and dyeing cloth or the pattern cutting and sewing of a garment? Does it relate to the fabric of the Mill building or to those people that made it? Or perhaps the cloth's journey after leaving the Mill, to those who used it and wore it?

What relevance does the word "tailored" have now? Does it have connotations of gender? How has its use extended beyond textiles to explain how we adapt and respond to our circumstances? Is its meaning as simple as the word "made"?

The exhibition will take place in the Gallery, the former cloth warehouse of the Mill, a beautiful light and airy 3,000 sq ft space.

In addition, we may consider using other spaces around the Mill, particularly external spaces, and welcome proposals for site sensitive works. Please contact [jane @sunnybankmills.co.uk](mailto:jane@sunnybankmills.co.uk), in the first instance, if you are interested in exploring this possibility.

Considering the Gallery's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we would particularly welcome work that responds to its heritage, although this is not essential. Tailored will be part of a programme of exhibitions and engagement that celebrates textiles and their place in the local community and economy.





# 2023 Exhibition - Sunny Bank Mills 'Tailored'

Richard McVetis/Ealish Wilson

## THE BRIEF cont/d

### Resources:

- Tailor: The Concise Dictionary of Oxford English 5<sup>th</sup> Edn 1964  
*n. 1. Maker of (esp. Men's) garments esp. to order*  
*Tailorbird, kind of small bird sewing leaves together to form nest; tailormade, (esp. of woman's dress) made by---- usu. W. little ornament & w. special attention to exact fit; .... Tailors twist, kind of strong silk thread*  
*2.vb be work as a [ME & AF taillour, = of OF tailleor f. LL taliatorum taliare*
- Concise Oxford English Dictionary 12<sup>th</sup> Edition 2011  
*Tailor n. a person whose occupation is making clothes such as suits for individual customers v.1. (of a tailor) a person who makes (clothes) to fit individual customers 2. Make or adapt for a purpose or person*  
*-DERIVATIVES tailoring (noun)*  
*- ORIGIN ME: from anglo saxon fr. Taillour, lit. 'cutter' based on late L taliare "to cut" Tailored – adj – (of clothes) smart, fitted, and well cut*
  - [www.sunnybankmills.co.uk](http://www.sunnybankmills.co.uk) – resources include 3D films of the Archive; the former weaving sheds (now Weavers' Green – an outdoor space) and the former finishing rooms. There are also several oral histories
  - [www.Leeds2023.co.uk](http://www.Leeds2023.co.uk)
  - Tours – you are very welcome to come and visit us – lots to inspire!  
Any further questions – please ask [arts@sunnybankmills.co.uk](mailto:arts@sunnybankmills.co.uk)





# Message from Penny Burnfield

Sadly, Penny has decided to leave the group but asked if we could share this message with our members. I'm sure we all join together to wish Penny all the best for the future and thank her for her service and fabulous work (shown on the right of this page).

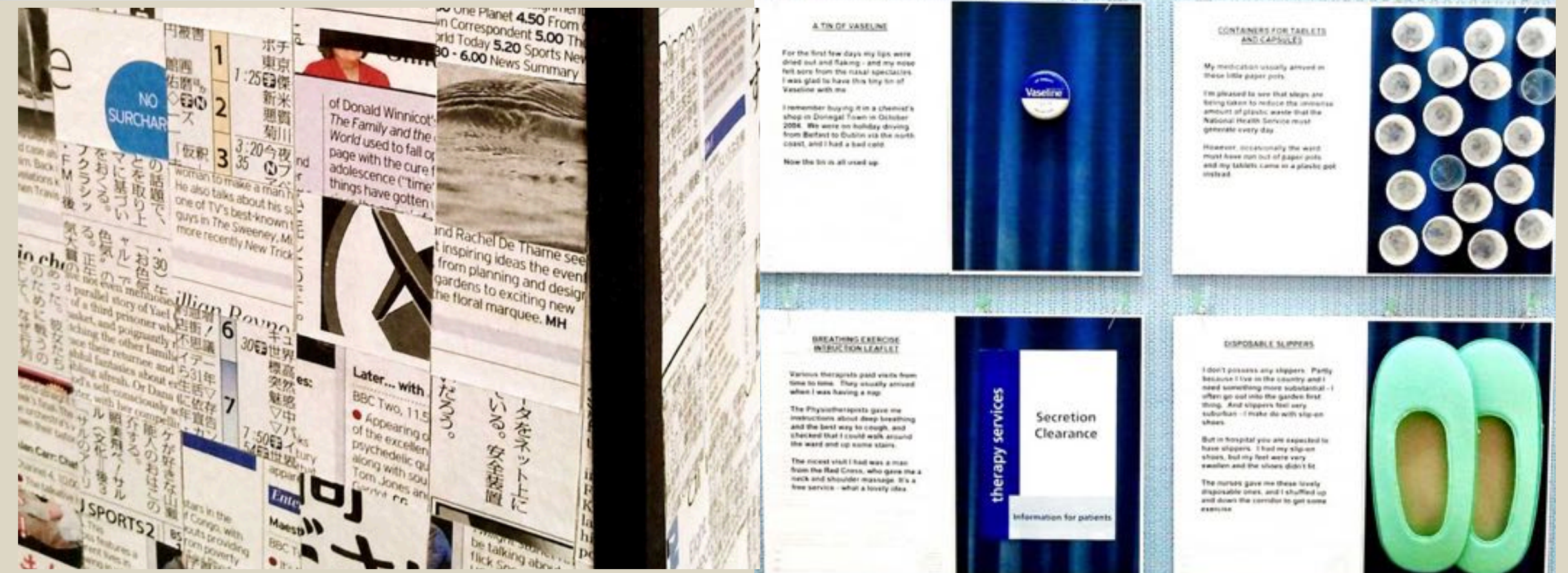
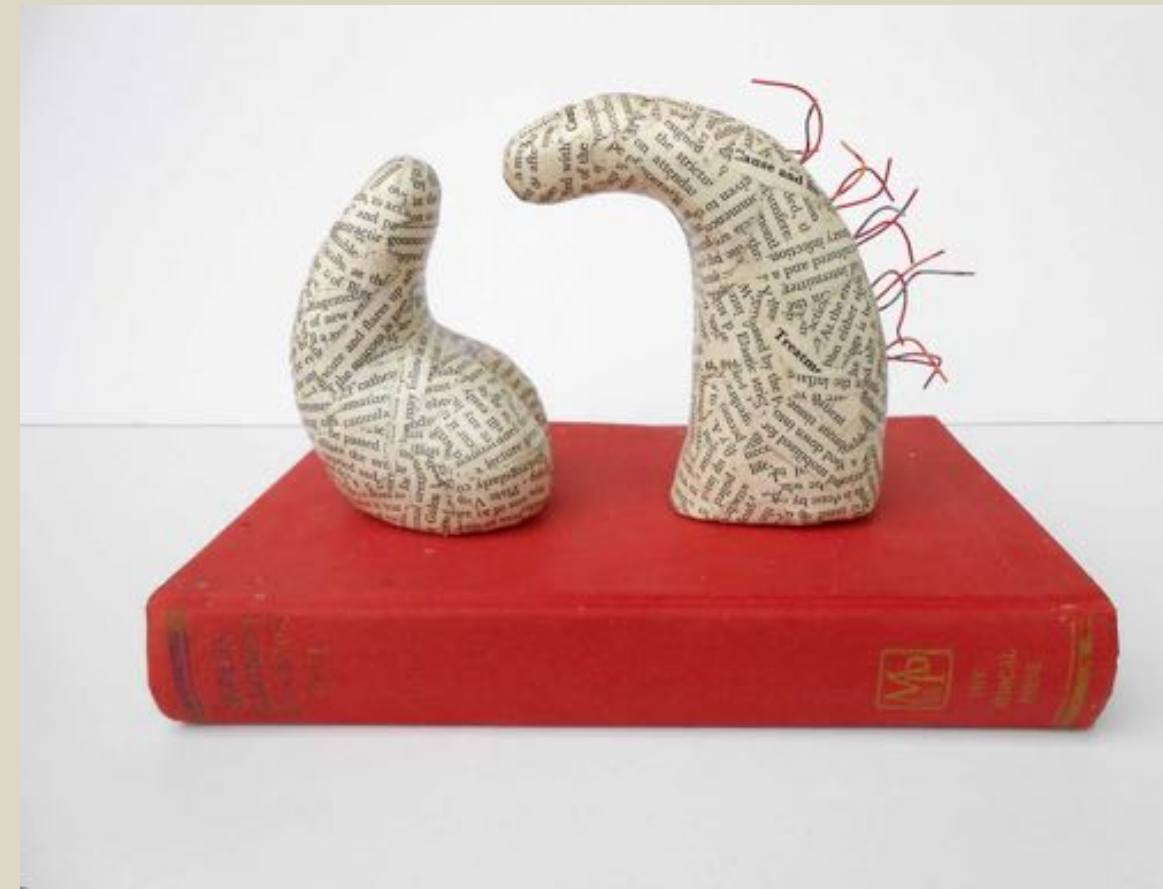
Dear Catherine

I have decided that it is time for me to retire from the 62 Group. I joined twenty years ago and it has been an honour to be a member. I served on the committee under Audrey Walker, Jae Maries and Sue Stone. I learnt a lot and we had great fun. It was my job to compile the quarterly members' newsletter when it still had to be photocopied and posted - it was a three-person job. Times have changed.

The 62 Group has encouraged me to extend my practice. It gave me the opportunity to work on a larger scale and with experimental ideas, materials and processes. And I had the pleasure of going to Japan to be part of the team that installed our exhibition in Tokyo.

I wish the 62 Group all the best for the future. I know you will continue to keep textile art in the public eye and I will be interested to see how the group continues to evolve.

# Penny Burnfield





## Online Networking meetings

The next online networking meeting is scheduled for:  
**Tuesday 18th October @ 7.30-8.30pm**

Following the success of Hannah leading a discussion around getting published at the last meeting, there was huge interest in learning more about self publishing. So Debbie Lyddon and others will be sharing their highlights and the things to avoid.

**Anybody else got anything interesting they want to share?**

Sally will send around a zoom link a few days in advance of each session and set up the meeting,

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







03 09 22

## Committee Meeting Decisions & actions

### Present:

Catherine Dormor  
Richard McVetis  
Isobel Currie  
Christina Hesford  
Vanessa Rolf  
Emily Jo Gibbs  
Sally Spinks  
Hannah Lamb

#### Apologies:

Ealish Wilson  
Anna Gravelle

### Committee:



Ealish Wilson and Claire Barber have come forward for the Exhibitions role. This will be brought to the AGM in December for ratification.

Sadly Anna Gravelle is stepping back from the **Social Media role** on the committee. She has done an amazing job and we're now looking for someone to fill her shoes. **Please let us know if you're interested.**

We also really need an extra pair of hands to **partner with Vanessa to take the Diversity and Inclusion** work forward.



### Finance:

We have a healthy balance £19,838.18.

Much of the increase is down to the Audrey Walker legacy which will be used for a conference in 2024. Next year we will also be funding the Associate Members expenses and fees from these funds.



### Membership:

An extension to Caron Penney's sabbatical was agreed.

The following members have left the group:  
Penny Burnfield, Jeanette Appleton, Gerri Spilka.

Isobel is now monitoring member numbers and submissions from 2011 to date so we can continue to maintain healthy numbers in the group.

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



### Publicity:

K&S are producing their own publicity for Essences in London and Harrogate. More on 62group activities to follow.

Please can members continue to promote both shows via social media. It'll be a great showcase to engage with potential new members

### New Members:

2nd stage selection for both New and Associate Members is to be held on 23rd September in person.

Catherine will host and the panel will be: Catherine Dormor, Vanessa Rolf, Emily Jo Gibbs, Richard McVetis, James Hunting.

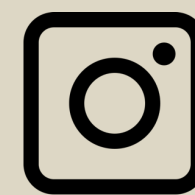
### Education:

For K&S:

- Catherine is delivering a talk at Alexandra Palace on 9th Oct exploring the history and legacy of 62 Group. Daily tours of the stand will be available to be booked through Eventbrite
- The Handling Collection will be incorporated into the stand for people to engage with



### Social media:



Please keep tagging 62group in your posts ;)

**Please put your hand up if you're interested in taking on our social media campaigns**

Huge thanks Anna for all her hard work in increasing our number of followers.

### Diversity & Inclusion:



Vanessa is still looking for a partner to help her with the rest of the Diversity and Inclusion plan. Including setting up some talks in dialogue with artists from different backgrounds. **Any ideas on guests, let Vanessa know.**

### Previous Minutes:

Approved and will be on the members site soon

Date of next meeting:  
3 December 2022

This is also the date of the AGM. More details to follow soon.

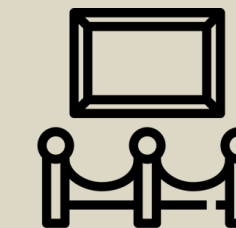


### Newsletter:



September edition has been circulated by Emily. Please continue to send any newsworthy items to Emily each quarter before the 1st of December, March, June and September.

### Exhibitions:



K&S show Autumn 2022:  
"Essence"  
6-9th October London  
17-20th November Harrogate

The brief for Sunny Bank Mills is now available. 6th May - 2nd July 2023. See Sept Members Newsletter for details of the brief and submission schedule.

Richard, Ealish and Claire are exploring options for 2024 and beyond.



### Artist Films:

52 people accessed the workshop film and it was viewed 117 times. 28 participants have sent video footage for the film that will be shown at K&S in both London & Harrogate.

All materials are being added to the Member's area of the website.



# Important info

## Your Committee 2022

### Officers

Catherine Dormor - 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 [treasurer@62group.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@62group.co.uk)

### 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.



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