

# Voices in Cloth



Voices in Cloth artists was formed in 2016 with the aim of supporting and developing each other's artistic progress, in our own unique ways.

We recognise that each of us has an individual path to follow and wanted to create a space to enable creative work with constructive feedback from within the group in a safe and meaningful way. Within that framework, we have pushed the boundaries of our individual goals, and have felt confident to explore new ideas.

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Our artists are :

Amelia Leigh

Brenda Wroe

Christine Seager

Hazel Ryder

Kate Findlay

Marion Robertson

Sandra Newton

Terry Donaldson

# Voices in Cloth

## Amelia Leigh

[www.amelialeightextiles.co.uk](http://www.amelialeightextiles.co.uk)

Textiles are the way I express myself, they are my passion, my vision, they are the oxygen that keeps me going. When I am working, the world dissolves and my mind takes over. Creation is fulfilling, while worries and concerns disappear.

I look to abstract from what surrounds me, be it buildings or scenes that impinge onto my imagination, a fire, a flood, a reflection upon the water or on a building. I ask myself questions, how can I represent that which I'm seeing, how can I simplify it and still convey the feeling or the image.

I love to show my work to others, but foremost in my mind is that it speaks to me, that it tells the story I want to tell, and it is never about what others might or might not like, it gives me a voice.

My work has evolved and it is still evolving, while I look for different ways to tell the story. I have several City & Guilds certificates and diplomas, and I am a SAQA (*Studio Art Quilt Associates*) JAM (*Juried Artist Member*). My work has appeared in several exhibition catalogues and I have been interviewed by Patchwork Professional, a German publication.



Amelia Leigh - Cathedral

# Voices in Cloth

## Brenda Wroe

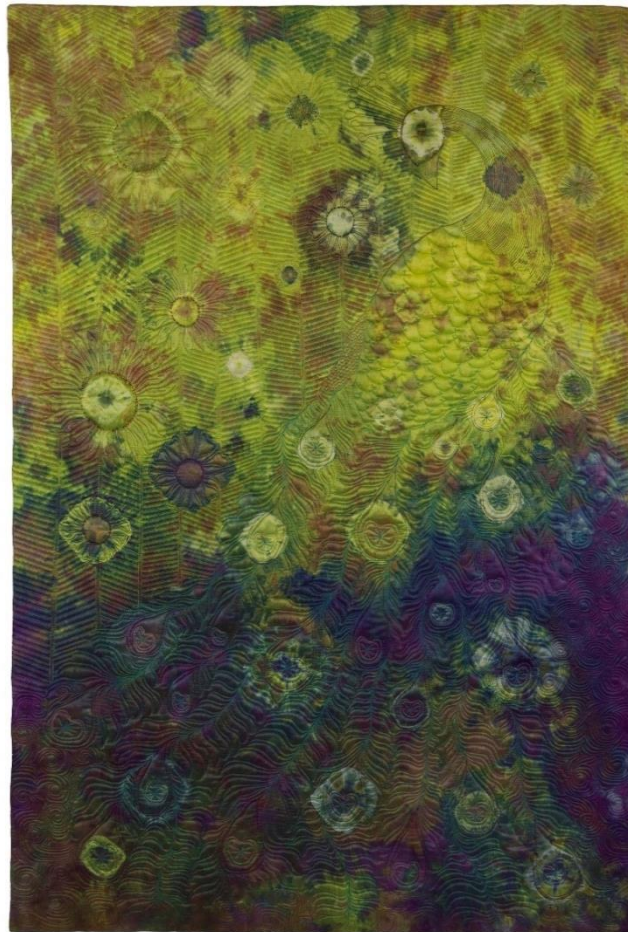
[www.brendawroe.com](http://www.brendawroe.com)

As a textile artist I am constantly inspired by travel, local history and the challenges of the natural environment.

My work starts with personally creating the cloth to reflect my love of bold and contrasting colours. I choose my fabric carefully, preferring silk and cotton, although I also love to recycle vintage linens. Using folds and resists I hand-dye the fabric often adding ice to the process to disperse the dye molecules and create exciting surprise effects. I add stitch in an improvised fashion using a hand-guided longarm quilting machine with layers of wool and cotton wadding, to generate contrast and depth to the textured surface. The final touches are made by hand with small bead embellishment on the quilted surface.

The subject and focus of my quilts is revealed when the shapes and colours in the dyed cloth combine with my thoughts, feelings and imagination in a spontaneous and serendipitous way.

I am a member of the Contemporary Quilt Group (CQ) of the Quilters Guild of the British Isles and Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA). My work has been selected for exhibition throughout the UK and in Europe, USA, Canada, Russia and China.



Brenda Wroe - My Fine Feathered Friend

# Voices in Cloth

## Christine Seager

[www.chrisse.co.uk](http://www.chrisse.co.uk)

I love colour, bright and bold. I like to play with line and shape. I have sewn since I was six years old so cloth is an essential element of my life. Combining stitch, cloth and colour to make large dynamic abstract quilts, is the basis of my art quilt practice.

I hand dye or print all my own fabric. I love the process of adding colour to white cloth using procion dyes or textile inks or alternatively, taking colour away from black or darker cloth with discharge paste. My fabric stash is made up of textured hand dyes, stamp prints, screen prints with motifs and patterns or simple mark making. Recently, I have been exploring breakdown printing which produces prints with a serendipitous element. On a sunny day, I often happily immerse myself in turning out metres of brightly coloured cloth. My fabrics are stored in carefully selected piles which can be combined to make one or a series of quilts.

My newer designs have been based on my monoprints which include whole and part circles. I select a view which can be developed into a quilt design. I make a paper pattern, select the colours I want and then cut the individual pieces. Once pieced, I layer up my top and begin to stitch it. I keep my stitching simple, so it enhances the design.

As an escape from the discipline of my main series, I make socially themed work. These quilts incorporate drawings, graffiti type text, dribbling paint and hand stitch.

I am a member of CQ West, a South West based textile art group, SAQA, Studio Art Quilt Associates and the UK based Contemporary Quilt. I have exhibited in the UK, Europe, USA, South Africa and China.



Christine Seager - Broken Circles 9

# Voices in Cloth

## Hazel Ryder

<https://www.voicesincloth.uk/hazel-ryder.html>

I make quilts because it gives me an opportunity to express myself in a way I couldn't otherwise do. Over the years I find that it is the act of making, rather than the finished quilt, which is more important to me. Spending time with the fabric and thread, each quilt tells a personal story, they are part of me: who I am, what I have done, who I have loved, what I hope for. I make them for no-one other than myself, but when they are exhibited I hope that they engage the viewer not only in a private conversation with me, the maker, but with themselves as viewer.

Of my still life quilts, a friend once remarked: you're just a frustrated food stylist. Maybe I am!

Occasionally I use commercial fabrics but mainly I create my own fabrics by dyeing, painting, stamping, screen- or mono-printing.

I have won several national awards and my quilts have been exhibited nationally and internationally, including in France, Prague, South Korea, China, Tokyo, and Canada.

In 2018 I was juried into *Fine Art Quilt Masters* at The Festival of Quilts, NEC, Birmingham, UK

I am a member of The Quilters' Guild, Contemporary Quilt and Studio Art Quilt Associates, SAQA.



# Voices in Cloth

## Kate Findlay

[www.artsfindlay.co.uk](http://www.artsfindlay.co.uk)

My work in textiles has evolved over the last fifteen years since I made a conscious decision to work exclusively in fabric. Previously I had been painting landscapes and still life although my background was textile design.

I find I am interested in making series of work to really explore the design possibilities within a subject matter. This resulted in nearly five years working on the Large Hadron Collider series, making an entire body of work – art quilts and framed work, which was exhibited in 2012. Since then my attention has been on an entirely different subject matter inspired by the British countryside and wildlife. Colour, composition and design are very important to me.

I dye much of my own fabric now, as I find I love the subtlety of the randomly marked fabric, which lends itself well to the themes I am working on. I have always enjoyed collage, and like the way I can build up rich layered surfaces in fabric. I have been adding other techniques to the collage – painting and printing with fabric dyes, and experimenting with confetti effects for a more impressionist feel.

I have exhibited widely, having solo shows and also curating and mounting group exhibitions. I am a member of the Quilters Guild, Contemporary Quilt and SAQA. I am chair of Henley Arts Trail.



Kate Findlay - Blossom Trees

# Voices in Cloth

## Marion Robertson

<https://www.voicesincloth.uk/marion-robertson.html>

I am a contemporary quilter who uses fabric, colour and stitch to create my work. My inspiration comes from the natural world and places that have a personal connection for me, woodlands, hedgerows and the river to the sea. I take photos and work in sketchbooks to develop the colour palette and motifs for my designs. My pieces are stitched with free machining but will always include some hand stitching. Recently, I have enjoyed using vintage family linens in collages where I have combined old and new hand embroidery.

I am a member of the Quilters' Guild, Contemporary Quilt (CQ) and Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA). As well as being part of national and international groups, I value being a member of Thames Valley Contemporary Textiles and Threaded Together where I regularly meet and share my creativity with others. My work has been in exhibitions throughout the UK.



Marion Robertson - Midnight Hedgerow

# Voices in Cloth

## Sandra Newton

<https://www.voicesincloth.uk/sandra-newton.html>

I have come to realise that working to an inspiration goes better for me if it has a textual expression, most recently in a series entitled 'Fabric of Life'. These pieces are inspired by the words that have woven themselves through my life at key points. These come from texts I have studied, songs I have sung and danced to, books I have read and poems that have entranced me.

I use fabric which is screen or mono printed with text as a design element in the printing or surface embellishment and then enhance this with machine and hand stitch.

I am a member of the Quilters Guild of the British Isles and completed the City & Guilds Diploma in stitched textiles, receiving the Gold Medal in 2013. My work has received commendations at the Festival of Quilts including second prizes in Contemporary (2012), Guild Challenge (2018), Miniature (2017, 2018) and Art (2019) and first prizes in Miniature (2016 and 2019).



Sandra Newton - Roam



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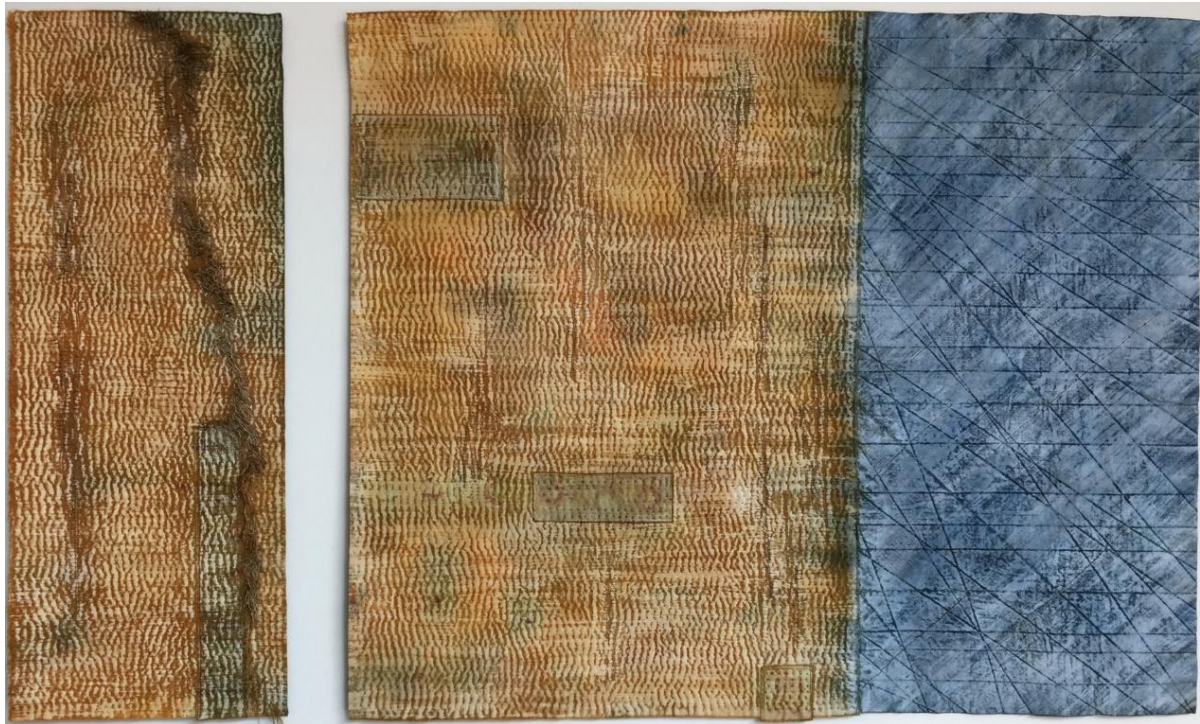
## Terry Donaldson

[www.terrydonaldson.co.uk](http://www.terrydonaldson.co.uk)

My textile practice derives from my love of the South West Coast Path and the sea and has evolved from simple abstract seascapes to incorporate a concern for the coastal environment. Recently I have begun to investigate the various forces which shape our fragile coastline. Shifting and changing constantly with the tides, after a storm everything is different, unrecognisable. Pebbles are arranged and rearranged through the action of the waves. A whole beach can be built and destroyed in a season and I am fascinated by this. Slower geological and natural processes also interest me, and last year I considered longshore drift, particularly the action of waves which formed and maintain Chesil Beach. My current work examines the effect of animals and the impact of humans (positive and negative).

A new piece begins with coastal walks, where I sketch and record my impressions. I collect objects from the beaches of the south coast, both natural and the results of man's carelessness. Back in the studio I reflect on the textures, sounds, lines and patterns I have observed and objects I have collected, and research further, investigating coastal processes and looking for connections. I dye and print my own fabrics, incorporating marks made by rust and found objects. The quilting stitch is important, adding a tactile quality to the surface of the cloth and a contemplative rhythm, which for me echoes the ceaseless ebb and flow of the waves, whilst the subsequent unpredictability of painting and dyeing can totally transform the work.

I am a member of Contemporary Quilt, a specialist group of the Quilters' Guild of the British Isles, Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA) and the textile exhibiting group Diversity. My work has been selected for exhibitions in the UK, Europe and Canada. I am co-owner (with Hazel Ryder) of InStitches Creative Textile Courses, a teaching studio on the Hampshire-Berkshire borders.



Terry Donaldson - Unseen Forces (Chesil) Best