

# **THE WEAVERS' COMPANY TEXTILE EDUCATION FUND**



## **SUMMARY OF TEXTILE AWARDS 2015/2016**

The Worshipful Company of Weavers is the oldest of the City of London Livery Companies. Its earliest Charter, in 1155, confirmed the Company's monopoly of its craft and rights of supervision of craftsmen in the Cities of London and Westminster, and the Borough of Southwark. With the growth of the Industrial Revolution the Weavers' Company gradually lost active control of its trade, although it has continued to keep in touch, both through its educational work and through its members, many of whom remain connected with the industry in one way or another.

In the 21st century, the Weavers' Company seeks to build on almost nine hundred years of involvement in the craft and manufacture of textiles, especially weaving, through its Textile Education Fund. The main aims and objectives of the Fund are to encourage excellence in all spheres of the United Kingdom woven textile industry by identifying, supporting and nurturing exceptional students during their training; to sponsor young talent working within the industry; supporting centres of excellence in textile education; and finally recognising and working with those who have made the most significant contribution to the industry.

## **The Weavers' Company Silver Medal**

The Company's Silver Medal is awarded in recognition of an individual's contribution to the weaving industry in the field of technology, management, education or the craft of weaving. This year it has been awarded to *Mr John Maisey, former Head of Technical Management at Stephen Walters & Sons Ltd* in recognition of his outstanding achievement in the textile industry.

## **Awards to Educational Establishments**

The principal aim of the Weavers' Company is to uphold and enhance its traditions, its fellowship and its assets, allowing them to benefit the weaving and textile industry, the chosen objectives of the Company's charities, and future generations of the Weavers' Company.

In 2007 it was agreed that a small number of colleges offering textile-related degree courses should be identified as centres of excellence to which the Company's grant giving would be directed. Visits were undertaken to a number of colleges across the UK and six were selected to form an initial core group: Membership of the core group is regularly reviewed and currently comprises Central St Martins College of Art & Design, Falmouth University, Heriot-Watt University, The University of Huddersfield, Loughborough University and Royal College Art.

### **Scholarships**

The Company's scholarships were restricted to students at these pre-selected centres of excellence.

Scholarships totalling £37,000 were awarded to students at the colleges:

Central St Martins College of Art & Design	£4,500
Falmouth University	£7,000
Heriot-Watt University	£2,000
Huddersfield University	£1,500
Loughborough University	£6,000
Royal College of Art	£16,000

The Company's top scholarship is titled the Stuart Hollander Scholarship and commemorates the life and work of Stuart Hollander CBE, a member of the Livery, who played a significant part in the UK textile industry. The Stuart Hollander Scholarship 2015 was awarded to *Matilda Ryley-Hicks from Loughborough University*.

## Support for Education Awards

The Support for Education Award helps weaving departments to upgrade or renew existing equipment, purchase new equipment, or enable their students to gain experience of modern technology, and visit mills and factories. In addition to capital projects, Support for Education Awards also provide assistance with work experience placements, the purchase of yarns and projects linked to industry which help students prepare for employment.

In the academic year 2015/16, awards totalling £47,617 were made:

### **Central St Martins College of Art & Design: £10,000**

- Partial funding for the purchase of 2 x TC2 Digital Weaver Jacquard studio looms

### **Falmouth University: £2,500**

- 4 x folding table looms
- 2 x sets of reeds for Dobby looms

### **Heriot-Watt University: £5,960**

- Partial funding for the purchase and set up of 2<sup>nd</sup> hand Sulzer Rapier Loom

### **University of Huddersfield: £2,000**

- Electronic controller for Hergeth Warping machine

### **Loughborough University: £4,975**

- 2 x Scotweave licenses
- 2 x Harris table looms
- 6 x 4dpi Raddles

### **Royal College of Art: £7,182**

- Bonas Jacquard Loom Controller
- Weft accumulators
- Custom stands

**Note:** In addition to the above awards, each of the supported colleges was awarded grants of £1,000 towards the cost of yarn for final year students and £1,500 towards the mill visits.

## New Designers

In 2015 an Associate Prize of £1,000 was awarded to the most outstanding designer of woven fabric exhibiting at New Designers. The recipient of the award was *Miss Louise Jenkins from Heriot-Watt University*.

## Industrial Placements

This is the eighth year that the Weavers' Company has used its industrial contacts to identify textile companies that would like to take on new or recent graduates for a trial period of six months. The Weavers' Company awards a grant equal to two thirds of the salary, with the balance paid by the employing company. For the fifth year the Worshipful

Company of Clothworkers has very kindly agreed to match our funding, which enabled us to place eight students.

In 2015 placements were awarded to:

- Miss Nicola Costello with *Luxury Contract Furnishings Ltd*
- Miss Becky Dainty with *Stephen Walters & Sons Ltd*
- Miss Ailis Dewar with *McNaughton Holdings Ltd*
- Miss Rachel Evison with *Bute Fabrics*
- Miss Naomi Ison with *Johnstons of Elgin*
- Miss Towera Ridley with *Joshua Ellis & Co Ltd*
- Miss Bethany Smith with *Marton Mills Co Ltd*
- Miss Beth Parker with *Gainsborough Silk Weaving Co Ltd*

## **Other Awards**

A grant was made towards the expenses of TEXPRINT, which each year provides an opportunity for the top 20 or so newly graduated textile designers to display their work within an international showcase, enabling them to make international contacts in the fashion industry and secure orders.

## **Presentation of Awards**

The awards will be presented on Tuesday 23rd February 2016 at our Awards Reception and Court Breakfast, by *Ms Stella Tennant*.

## **Scholarship Students**

The following scholarship students will be attending the awards ceremony and showing a selection of their work at the reception:

- Miss Fiona O’Keeffe, *Central St Martins*
- Ms Rhianna Parker-Yates, *Falmouth University*
- Miss Beth Hey, *Heriot-Watt University*
- Miss Tamsyn Ainsworth, *Huddersfield University*
- Miss Matilda Ryley-Hicks, *Loughborough University*
- Miss Elizabeth Ashdown, *Royal College of Art*
- Mr Christopher McEvoy-Barton, *Royal College of Art*