

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



## **SUMMARY OF TEXTILE AWARDS 2016/2017**

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 Sinclair Paterson, Managing Director at Sinclair Duncan Textiles 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	£5,000
Falmouth University	£6,000
Heriot-Watt University	£7,000
Huddersfield University	£2,000
Loughborough University	£4,000
Royal College of Art	£13,000

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 2016 was awarded to *Katie Fairfull from Heriot-Watt 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 2016/17, awards totalling £48,000 were made:

### **Central St Martins College of Art & Design:** £5,500

- ARM Loom upgrade

### **Falmouth University:** £5,000

- Mill visits for 2<sup>nd</sup> year students
- Drying cabinet
- Benches, raddles & spinning wheel

### **Heriot-Watt University:** £7,300

- Smart Weave system for Sulzer Rapier Loom and RAM cards

### **University of Huddersfield:** £5,500

- ARM Loom upgrade

### **Loughborough University:** £2,000

- Jacquard Weft Accumulators

### **Royal College of Art:** £13,700

- Purchase of ARM Loom Touch 60

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

## New Designers

In 2016 an Associate Weave 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 Lydia Hiles from Manchester School of Art – Manchester Metropolitan University*. In addition, an award of £800 was granted to *Ms Mariam Syed from Glasgow School of Art*.

## Industrial Placements

This is the ninth 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 sixth year the Worshipful Company of

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

In 2016 placements were awarded to:

- Ms Katrina Romano, *DHJ Weisters Ltd*
- Ms Melody Kolbaba, *Heritage Cashmere Ltd*
- Ms Melissa Davies, *The Humphries Weaving Co Ltd*
- Mr Laurence Alder, *John Spencer Textiles Ltd*
- Ms Beth Hey, *Joshua Ellis & Co Ltd*
- Ms Liene Kazaka, *Lochcarron of Scotland*
- Ms Bethany Couldrick, *London Cloth Company*
- Ms Fiona O'Keeffe, *Magee Weaving*
- Ms Mae Littleton, *Stephen Walters & Sons Ltd*
- Ms Rhiannon Tompkins, *Vanners Silk Weavers*

## **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 21st February 2017 at our Awards Reception and Court Breakfast, by *Ms Livia Firth, Founder & Creative Director of Eco Age Ltd.*

## **Scholarship Students**

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

- Miss Lily Thornton, *Central St Martins*
- Ms Fiona Ward, *Falmouth University*
- Miss Katie Fairfull, *Heriot-Watt University*
- Miss Rose Moorman, *Loughborough University*
- Miss Isabella MacKenzie, *Royal College of Art*
- Ms Charlotte Des'Ascoyne, *Royal College of Art*