

THE WEAVERS' COMPANY TEXTILE EDUCATION FUND



SUMMARY OF TEXTILE AWARDS 2019/2020

The Worshipful Company of Weavers is the oldest recorded 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 *Dr Mike Burton, of Brinton Carpets* in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the field of carpet weaving technology.

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 Falmouth University, Heriot-Watt University, The University of Huddersfield, Loughborough University, Nottingham Trent University and The Royal College Art.

Scholarships

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

Scholarships totalling £40,000 were awarded to students at the colleges:

Falmouth University	£7,000
Heriot-Watt University	£3,000
Huddersfield University	£6,000
Loughborough University	£11,000
Nottingham Trent University	£6,500
Royal College of Art	6,500

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 2019 was awarded to *Tamara Dew 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 2019/20, awards totalling £58,788 were made:

Falmouth University: £12,500

- First instalment of a 2-year award of £25,000 to purchase a TC2 Jacquard Loom

Heriot-Watt University:

- No application for funding received

University of Huddersfield: £1,000

- Yarns and specialist fibres

Loughborough University: £22,000

- TC2 Jacquard Loom Looms
(match-funded by Loughborough University)

Nottingham Trent University: £20,038

- 3 x ARM Touch 60 Table Looms
(match-funded by Nottingham Trent University)

Royal College of Art: £3,250

- Mill visits to Yorkshire and Sudbury
(match-funded the Royal College of Art)

New Designers

In 2019 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 *Ms Evie Crawshaw from Falmouth University*.

Industrial Placements

This is the twelfth 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 of £6,000 towards salary costs, with the balance paid by the employing company. For the ninth year the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers has very kindly agreed to match our funding, which enabled us to place twelve students.

In 2019 placements were awarded to:

- Ms Francesca Shimmin, *Abraham Moon*
- Ms Nancy Frail, *AW Hainsworth & Sons*
- Ms Anna McKinney, *Bute Fabrics*
- Ms Alex Daniels, *Humphries Weaving*
- Mr Sean Hughes, *Johnstons of Elgin*
- Ms Esther Mason, *Johnstons of Elgin*
- Ms Amy Halley, *Margo Selby*
- Ms Charlotte Howson, *Marton Mills*
- Ms Holly Jones, *Panaz*
- Ms Molly Hayden, *Stephen Walters*
- Ms Millie Thomas, *Tibor Ltd*
- Ms Laura Trowsdale, *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 25th February 2020 at our Awards Reception and Court Breakfast, by *Mr Tom Helme, Fermoie*

Scholarship Students

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

- Miss Sarah Craig, *Falmouth University*
- Miss Hannah Russell, *Huddersfield University*
- Miss Tamara Dew, *Loughborough University*
- Miss Georgina Thomas, *Nottingham Trent University*
- Miss Megan Leech, *Royal College of Art*