

TEXPRINT®

2015

SUPPORTING CREATIVE FUTURES

TEXPRINT ANNOUNCES THE 2015 WINNERS - 4 TEXTILE GRADUATES WIN PRESTIGIOUS TEXPRINT AWARDS

- Additional prizes presented by Bedeck and The Woolmark Company

On 16 September the charity Texprint announced the winners of its prestigious awards at a prize-giving ceremony held at Première Vision Designs in Paris. Making the presentations was legendary designer and long-time head of the Missoni brand, Rosita Missoni.

“I am very pleased to be here to applaud the young talents coming from the U.K. Colleges and Universities,” said Signora Rosita Missoni. ‘Première Vision Designs is a wonderful opportunity to bring them to the attention of the industry and the Fashion World which need to invest in new fresher talents and ideas. I wish to the 24 designers to keep their curiosity, enthusiasm, passion and to transform them in wonderful careers.”

Four textile design graduates won prizes for Colour, Pattern, Fashion and Interiors. The Texprint Awards highlight the exceptional textile design, techniques and innovation skills that are developed at UK colleges and universities. These awards frequently presage a successful career in the industry.

2015 TEXPRINT AWARDS AND WINNERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

The Texprint Colour Award, sponsored by Mode Information goes to Emma McCluskey who studied Textile Design at Duncan and Jordanstone College of Art & Design

The Texprint Pattern Award is presented to Joanna Robins, who graduated from University of West of England (Bristol) having specialised in Textiles for Fashion Design

The Texprint Fashion Award winner is Jessica Leclere, who has just completed an MA in Textiles – Knit, at the RCA (Royal College of Art).

The Texprint Interiors Award goes to Anja Alexandersdottir who studied Weave at Heriot Watt University

THE JUDGES:

This year’s judges were British couturier **Nicholas Oakwell**; **Ariane Bigot**, Associate fashion director for Première Vision; **Sarah Lowry**, colour & materials designer at Aston Martin Lagonda and **Julie**

Hall, head of design, Bedeck each bringing a wealth of experience and different perspectives from their diverse professional expertise within the textile industries. It resulted in extensive debate about who should win the various Texprint Awards. The consensus was one of appreciation of the excellent quality of the graduates portfolio's, with particular admiration for their technical skill and willingness to experiment and innovate. Commenting on the general quality, Sarah Lowry said, "The level of craftsmanship combined with the understanding of the commercial world excels." It is no surprise therefore that textile design education at the UK's colleges and universities leads the world. Texprint welcomes visitors from across the globe to the Texprint 'village' located within Première Vision Designs

The Bedeck Texprint Design Award for Bed & Bath

New for 2015 is the The Bedeck Texprint Design Award for Bed & Bath. The winner will be announced later this autumn. The nominees are Anja Alexandersdottir, Emma McCluskey and Jessica Pickard. The winner will enjoy six months' work experience at Bedeck's studio in Co Down as well as a cash prize of £1000. "It has always been very important – and rewarding – for me to encourage new designers, as it is vital their talent is fostered and directed into the creative industry. Colleges do a wonderful job at preparing graduates for the world of work – and internships and graduate placements further the development process. It is also imperative that the best of our design talent is acknowledged by bodies such as Texprint," said Julie Hall, Bedeck's head of design.

The Texprint Woolmark Company Prize

The Texprint Woolmark Company Prize was judged at Première Vision by Franco Fabrello, Head of Design at Marzotto, together with UK designer Kit Neale. Those eligible for this Texprint award must incorporate a minimum of 60% of Merino wool into their textiles, and demonstrate a good understanding of its qualities and potential application in fabric.

The Woolmark Company has been a longstanding supporter of Texprint and Rob Langtry, Chief Strategy and Marketing Officer at The Woolmark Company, commented, "Texprint has been and remains one of the key programmes we support. It is critical to the future of fashion as textile designers are the key to matching emerging consumer demands to products that can meet those aesthetics. The Woolmark Company is committed to a dynamic future and youth is key to that future being sustainable and a genuine major contributor in the fashion supply chain."

The Texprint Woolmark Company Award goes to Jessica Leclere for her knitted wool collection that combines positive and negative imagery in two colours to create intricate optical illusions. Both Emily Grieves and Gilles Werbrouk were highly commended.

The judges (Franco Fabrello and Kit Neale) remarked on Jessica Leclere's intricate handmade work and her vision which sees her match her imagination to the model. "She has developed her craftsmanship and technique into something contemporary and distinct," said Franco Fabrello.

Jessica Leclere has created optical illusion patterns using machine knit, and made a signature fashion collection demonstrating how her positive/negative designs could become whole garments. "I like to use Merino wool because of the way that it falls and because of its luxurious feel. Winning The Woolmark Company prize means that I will be able to investigate manufacturing and it will be invaluable in sourcing wonderful yarn. I am thrilled to win this, given the stiff competition amongst this year's Texprint designers," said Jessica.

"The overall standard is very high. Each designer has their own unique style and individual approach which is really impressive and a great expression of Britain's design graduates creativity and artistry," said Kit Neale.

Franco Fabrello also commented on the high level of technical and creative ability demonstrated by all the Texprint designers. "I liked a lot of the designers' work and this made it difficult to select just one winner for The Woolmark Company award. In general these young designers are showing strong colour sense, technique and experimentation whilst recognising the reality of the commercial world."

Summing up the 2015 Texprint Awards, Barbara Kennington Texprint's chair said, "The Texprint village at Premiere Vision Designs provides a unique opportunity for all 24 Texprint designers to showcase their unique and exciting collections, to meet icons in the world of textile design such as Rosita Missoni, and to greatly enhance their understanding of the industry and the opportunities globally. This first step in their careers into the international market place is immensely important, and the support they receive is greatly appreciated by the designers and the Texprint organisation."

About the Texprint charitable initiative

More than 200 graduates apply to Texprint to be considered for its extensive professional mentoring programme. Each year 24 are selected and go on to showcase their developing collections in London, Paris and Shanghai. The 24 designers benefit from internship opportunities sponsored by The Drapers' Company and Creative Skillsset. In addition: a year's license to WGSN; subscriptions to professional publications donated by mode info; Pantone F&H Colour Guides; online portfolios with Arts Thread; and lengths of fabric printed by R A Smart for the winner of the Pattern Prize.

Texprint is grateful to the organiser of Première Vision, which generously provides significant exhibition space within Première Vision Designs.

Some details about the award winners

Anja Alexandersdottir is Icelandic and attended a Steiner School prior to more formal final education in Scotland and Heriot Watt university. Her unconventional education and work experience in Cape Town where she spent 6 months in a ceramic studio painting traditional African dotwork in contemporary colourations will have influenced not only her dedicated approach to weave, but also the subtle, sophisticated palette in her weaving. She speaks Icelandic and English and hopes to travel and gain some experience with her weave heroes such as Ptolomy Mann and Salt..

Jessica Leclere's signature knitwear combines fashion and artform. She is skilled in industrial and domestic knitting as well as linking and Shima. In 2014 Nokia commissioned some pieces, and she has already captured media attention with editorial about her collections appearing in VIEW Textile

and Fault magazines. She completed her MA at the RCA in 2015 and previously studied for her BA at the Chelsea College of Art. Earlier this year she became the John Smedley Scholar, awarded by the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust. Her next plan is to work for a fashion label to kick start her career and gain further experience before, perhaps, starting her own knitwear brand.

Emma McCluskey had previously been awarded the Weaver Incorporation of Dundee: Textile Innovation for Industry and was the winner of the New Designers Clothworkers' Company Associate Prize 2015. Her ambition is to establish her own brand and studio to create fabrics and wallpapers with a Scottish influence.

Jessica Pickard's creativity comes from extensive international travel having grown up in the Middle East and Malaysia and work experience in New York and Ghana. A keen photographer, you can see how photorealism influences her intricate drawings. Her ambition is to work with leading brands.

Joanna Robins comes from an artistic background where both her father and grandfather are artists. She is hoping to sell a number of her designs at Première Vision and to develop her portfolio as a freelance designer. In the future she is aiming for the top, hoping one day to head up a print studio within a major design company. She was nominated for the David Band award at this year's Graduate Fashion Week. Her other passion is sport – from football to athletics, as well as competing and performing Irish Dancing which has taken her all over the world.

Ends

Notes to editors:

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Details of the Texprint® Awards 2015:

The **Fashion Prize** (£1,000), awarded for the best fashion fabric design in any discipline.

The **Interiors Prize** (£1,000), awarded for the best fabric design for interiors and donated by The Clothworkers' Foundation.

The **Colour Prize** (£1,000), awarded for the best use of colour donated by Mode iInformation.

The **Pattern Prize** (£1,000), awarded for the most creative pattern and donated by Liberty Art Fabrics.

NEW for 2015: The Bedeck Design Award for Bed & Bath (£1,000 plus internship opportunity), donated by Bedeck

The Woolmark Company Texprint Award (£1,000 plus support from Woolmark), donated by The Woolmark Company.

2015 Awards also include:

Arts Thread: Arts Thread online portfolios for the TEXPRINT® 2013 Top 50 designers selected at interview stage.

mode information: All 24 designers to be given a one year subscription to a professional magazine of their choice from a selection specified by Mode Information.

R. A. Smart Ltd: Offer to print two lengths of fabric for the designer whose work is considered the most appropriate.

Pantone: All 24 designers selected by Texprint receive a Pantone F+H Colour Guide.

WGSN: All 24 designers to be given a single user licence to WGSN for 1 year, free of charge.

The Texprint 2015 alumni will be presented at Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics from 13-15 October 2015.

The Texprint programme – funded by industry and charitable institutions – has helped close to 1,000 new designers launch their careers in over 40 years since its launch. Texprint's alumni have gone on to establish their own brands, such as fashion designer Alice Temperley and scarf designer Emma J Shipley; set up design studios such as Kirsty McDougall of Dashing Tweeds and knitwear designer Sophie Steller; or have joined the creative departments of international design houses and major retailers, including Givenchy, Tom Ford, Roland Mouret and Marks & Spencer.

And

Each year Texprint interviews approximately 200 tutor-nominated textile design graduates who have trained in art colleges and universities across the UK. Panels of industry professionals carry out mentoring interviews with each one, and in the process select the final 24 designers who will take part in the Texprint programme of events. This begins in London in July with a presentation to sponsors, press and buyers. Nominees for the special prizes of Fashion, Interiors, Pattern and Colour

are selected by a jury. Plus the special internship prize by Bedeck. In September (15-17) the designers present their work to industry on individual stands at Première Vision Designs. Here, The Woolmark Company Texprint prize is judged and all the special prize winners are announced during the annual award ceremony which will be held on Wednesday 16 September, 2015.

About The Woolmark Company:

The Woolmark is the world's best-known textile fibre brand, established in 1964.

Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), a not-for-profit company owned by more than 25,000 woolgrowers, owns the Woolmark brand. AWI's vision is to be a significant contributor to a vibrant, stable and profitable wool industry providing the world with the best natural fibre. The company works throughout the global supply chain – from woolgrowers through to retailers.

The company mission is to enhance the profitability, international competitiveness and sustainability of the Australian wool industry; and increase demand and market access for Australian wool.

Merino wool provides stability, resilience, softness and luxury to the tailoring industry. The fibre has long been a favourite of designers, but younger consumers, born in an era of 'disposable fashion know too little about the natural benefits.

Wool is 100 per cent natural and renewable fibre. Sheep live on grass, water, fresh air and sunshine. Wool is a fibre that is grown – not man-made. Every year sheep produce a new fleece, making wool a renewable fibre source.

Texprint is grateful to and values the support of many organisations and companies which make up the textile industries. They include:

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