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## **Texprint starts the year on a high with new initiatives and prizes with industry leaders Miroglio Textile and Liberty Art Fabrics**

With the aim of selecting and supporting emerging textile design talent, Texprint has developed new opportunities with industry partners to help the best British-trained graduates reach their potential.

### **New Miroglio Texprint Award to further print innovation**

Digital print specialist Miroglio Textile (MT) joins with Texprint as a Major Sponsor of the charity to found a new internship prize initiated by Elena Miroglio, vice president of the Miroglio Group, and commercial director Chiaretto Calo.

“Sponsoring the Texprint project takes on a great significance for us in terms of supporting the creative arts. Over the years Miroglio Textile has backed creative talent through a series of ventures. We believe in education and we are on a constant quest of finding new creative processes to bring to the company,” explains Elena Miroglio.

The winner of the internship will be chosen from among Texprint’s 2014 selected designers and, as well as a cash prize, will have the opportunity to go to the company’s headquarters in Piedmont, Italy, and develop his or her work in mass production; present his or her designs to MT’s customers and gain experience and exposure to the marketplace. Miroglio continues: “With the Texprint project we want to enhance even further our vision about product creation. We want our products to be original, to tell stories and to be able to reach our customers’ hearts. And to achieve this important goal we give the designers the chance to work with the latest digital technology where MT is a leader.”

Miroglio Textile is a long-time supporter of Texprint. And the company’s senior print designer Louise Somers took part in the programme in 2008. “There is something about the taste and a definite point of difference with UK-trained designers,” says Somers. “Texprint’s meticulous selection process determines the best and most creative emerging designers ready to enter industry. The work speaks for itself; it’s of a really high standard.”

### **Liberty Art Fabrics internship marks Texprint’s first UK industry placement**

Texprint, in collaboration with long-standing sponsor Liberty Art Fabrics, has established its first industry internship in the UK, funded in part by Foundation Sponsor, The Drapers’ Company.

Kirstie Carey, managing director - wholesale brands at Liberty, says of the internship: "We chose to work with Texprint on our graduate programme knowing that Texprint would give us access to the very best young textile design talent within the UK - we have definitely not been disappointed! Both Texprint and Liberty share a common desire to support and nurture young designers and our combined knowledge will continue to bring opportunities and exposure to the next generation of designers."

The first beneficiary is Texprint 2013 alumna Ffion Griffith. The weave designer began her year-long paid internship at the start of 2014 with the title of new product development assistant. She is working on new product innovation for base cloths, conducting extensive research as part of the Liberty Art Fabrics team.

Carey continues: "Ffion was selected by a panel of Liberty designers and sales people. We loved her use of colour, pattern and scale and felt she would bring a fresh new perspective. She is doing a fantastic job for us."

Ffion Griffith says: "The Texprint programme has been a huge help in guiding me at the very start of my career and developing my commercial understanding. Had it not been for Texprint, I would not be in the position I'm in today."

Fellow Texprint sponsor The Drapers' Company, is a co-financial supporter of the new initiative. Andrew Mellows, The Drapers' Company head of charities, explains the impetus to get involved in the new programme: "The Drapers' Company is aware of the difficulties involved in finding work for graduating designers today. We understand that internships are very good way for emerging designers to get their foot in the door. This particular Liberty Art Fabrics internship is a fantastic opportunity for one of these young winners to gain valuable experience within the textile industry."

Sponsorship director Joanna Bowring says: "We at Texprint are delighted to see greater involvement by our steadfast industry sponsors, who are supporting and encouraging the next generation of young talent through these exciting new initiatives."

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### **Notes for editors**

The Texprint programme:

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 meetings with each one, and in the process nominate 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 Body, Space, Pattern and Colour are selected by a jury. Plus special internship prizes by Lululemon Athletica and Miroglio Textile. In September (16-18) the designers present their work to industry on individual stands at Indigo, part of Première Vision Pluriel. 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 17 September, 2014.

For more information about Texprint contact GGHQ Fashion Intelligence [events@gghq.co.uk](mailto:events@gghq.co.uk) or call 020 7250 0589.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Joanna Bowring: [joanna.bowring@texprint.org.uk](mailto:joanna.bowring@texprint.org.uk)

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