



**Developing world class talent
through the Skills Investment Fund**

This project has been partly supported by HM Government with Employer Ownership funding

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TEXPRINT PART OF MAJOR GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE TO DEVELOP CREATIVE SKILLS

TEXPRINT is a beneficiary of the new government initiative – the Employer Ownership Partnership for Skills pilot - which is designed to boost the creative industries competitiveness, developing world-class leaders and a skilled and talented workforce.

In a joint venture with private industry, a combined total of £37 million will be invested in the future of the creative industries under the auspices of the Employer Ownership Pilot. EOP2 drives the education and skills aspect of the CIC industrial strategy, 'Create UK'. The funding represents £17million of private industry investment that levers £20 million of co-investment from EOP/BIS – a total of £37million over two years.

TEXPRINT is a partner of the Employer Ownership Pilot Round 2 (EOP2) where industry takes ownership of skills and development. EOP2 will support and augment TEXPRINT's paid internships at top UK design companies and the opportunity to showcase work in France, China and Italy for 20 textile design graduates from UK colleges and universities –internationally recognised in the field. This will help talented designers make the transition from university to work.

The government funding will provide TEXPRINT with up to £183,000 over two years, of which up to £95,000 is allocated specifically to the internship scheme for 20 placements. In order to qualify for the financial support each internship contribution of £4750 received from the EOP2 must be matched by the employer. Thus TEXPRINT will be actively seeking internship opportunities with potential employers across the fashion and interior textile design industries.

Barbara Kennington, TEXPRINT Chairman said: "We are very pleased that the value of textile design has been recognised by Create UK and that TEXPRINT has been selected for EOP2. 'For over 40 years TEXPRINT has been showcasing and promoting the UK's most talented textile design graduates, helping them to launch their careers into the global marketplace. TEXPRINT works closely with many companies in the fashion and interior design sectors to enable new designers to gain professional experience via intensive mentoring and paid internships, often leading to full employment. Within the EOP remit, up to 20 design graduates will be matched with both UK and International manufacturers and retailers to expand their hands-on experience of the industry."

On 14 July 2014 at the launch of the EOP2, Skills and Enterprise Minister Matthew Hancock MP says:

“Everyone in our country - no matter who they are - should have the chance to reach the highest ranks in the creative industries as well as every other part of our national life. This Government funding will be key to helping people break into and progress within the creative industries – spreading opportunity and enhancing social mobility.”

Speaking at the launch of the creative industries strategy ‘Create UK’, on 2 July 2014, Business Secretary, Vince Cable said: “The creative industries play a key role in the UK economy. British fashion designers, publishers, software developers, TV and filmmakers have put the UK on the world map with their creative talent. They have also played a big part in driving our economic recovery. UK creative industries generate £71 billion in revenue each year and support 1.71 million jobs.

We are committed to helping this vital sector grow. Developing the skills of the creative workforce lies at the heart of this.

We are working with employers from across the sector to open doors within the creative industries.

Developing world-beating talent continues to be a key priority for the creative industries and plays a vital role in enabling the sector to deliver on the vision and strategy for growth. Employer designed skills training enables those working within the creative industries to play an active role in developing the workforce of the future and direct funding to where it can have the greatest impact.”

On 9 and 10 July, TEXPRINT showcased the 24 designers graduating in 2014 who have been selected to benefit from TEXPRINT’s professional mentoring. They have been chosen from more than 200 applicants as the best exponents of print, weave, knit and mixed media disciplines and in addition to the London showcase, they will exhibit at Indigo / Première Vision Pluriel in Paris in September 2014. Examples of the work of the TEXPRINT Award winners will also be exhibited in China at Intertextile Shanghai later in October.

The winners of TEXPRINT top awards – sponsored by leading companies and organisations including The Woolmark Company, Miroglio Textiles and Lululemon Athletica – will be announced in Paris on 17 September.

The EOP2 funding for TEXPRINT recognises the important value of the British fashion industry and the excellence of Britain’s textile design education which is amongst the best in the world. It represents an investment in young design talent and the textile and fashion industries’ future.

ENDS

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ABOUT TEXPRINT

The TEXPRINT programme – which is 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.

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.

ABOUT CREATIVE SKILLSET

Creative Skillset empowers the Creative Industries to develop skills and talent; it does this by influencing and shaping policy, ensuring quality and by securing the vital investment for individuals to become the best in their field and for businesses to grow. As the industry skills body for the Creative Industries, it works across film, television, radio, animation, visual effects, games, fashion, textiles, advertising, marketing communications and publishing.

Details of the EOP2 bid:

- **£17million of private industry investment** will lever £20 million of co-investment from EOP/BIS – a total of **£37million over two years**.
- Led by Channel 4 on behalf of over 500 Creative Industries partners, this is the largest collaboration ever achieved across the Creative Industries.
- This Creative Industries' joint venture is made up of employers, trade unions, Local Enterprise Partnerships and training and education providers.
- Projects will be funded and delivered by a range of organisations in a number of the creative industries. Grant funding from BIS and DfE, for April 2014 to 31 March 2017, comes from the Employer Ownership Pilot.
- Employers from the creative industries will be investing a cash contribution of £10,390,381 alongside an in-kind contribution of £6,869,106. This totals £17,259,487. Information on UK creative industries and industry's new strategy is available at www.thecreativeindustries.co.uk

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