

## PRESS RELEASE

# The Jacquard Project

### Exhibition details

22-26<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Sunny Bank Mills, 1912 Mill, Leeds

Opening Hours 10am-4pm

In March 2023, Sunny Bank Mills will present a unique project of collaborative work led by weaver and artist Hannah Robson. Hannah has created a series of dynamic woven textiles using an industrial jacquard loom at Bradford College. These striking fabrics have been developed in partnership with four local artists: a sculptor, a jeweller, a weaver and a mixed-media artist.

Hannah describes her motivation for the project:

'I wanted to work with other artists to open up the process of weaving, which can be very technical and hard to access outside of an industrial setting. Weaving is a magical process that offers infinite possibilities in terms of design, colour and surface. It has been stimulating for me to see how each collaboration has unfolded and the results are distinct and surprising.'

In 2021, Hannah began working with an industrial loom at Bradford College that needed some attention. Through The Jacquard Project she has coaxed the machine back to life with the help of local weavers and loom tuners, who generously advised her, replaced parts and serviced the machine. Some of these conversations have been captured in a fascinating film created by Karanjit Panesar, intercut with footage of the action of the loom as it weaves, revealing the atmosphere of making cloth and sharing skills.

Link to film: <https://youtu.be/G-blWyqmiBw>

The Jacquard Project celebrates the weaving heritage of West Yorkshire through the process of creative exchange and collaboration. These new textiles have a contemporary and conceptual edge, presented as large panels on wooden frames. The cloths carry evidence of the making process - the experimentation and exploration, colour and scale variations, yarn testing, and the glitches of the loom. The exhibition aims to demystify the process of weaving and invites visitors to follow the threads as one artist's work blends into another's. Hannah has collaborated with the following artists:

#### Alice Chandler

The collaboration with Alice started with a shared interest in bricks and bindweed as a metaphor for urban changes in the city of Leeds and connections between brick walls, woven cloth and plant life.

#### Anna Ray

In another collaboration with a heritage focus, Anna takes inspiration from her French Huguenot ancestors, who were silk weavers and fancy trimmings manufacturers. She references the structure of the loom and the curling of yarns, reimagining Huguenot motifs.

#### James Thompson

The collaboration with James involved using scanning as a method for capturing details and surfaces along a controlled, yet arbitrary route around the jacquard machine itself, which formed designs for fabrics.

#### Jodie Posen

Jodie created imagery based on the leftover, incidental and fortuitous patterns and marks created in studio life. The collaboration gives new form to these patterns as textile design.

The exhibition will take place on the first floor of the iconic 1912 Mill at Sunny Bank Mills, in Farsley, near Leeds; itself a former worsted mill and weaver of fine cloth. 2023 marks 10 years of arts and culture at the Mills and this exhibition forms part of that yearlong celebration.

#### Further information

Venue [sunnybankmills.co.uk](https://sunnybankmills.co.uk)  
Project [hannah-robson.com/the-jacquard-project](https://hannah-robson.com/the-jacquard-project)  
Images High res. images available on request  
Contact [hannah.robson.studio@gmail.com](mailto:hannah.robson.studio@gmail.com)

#### Project supported by

Arts Council England  
Bradford College  
Leeds Inspired



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## Images

1. Hannah Robson running the jacquard machine
2. *Found Pattern* fabric designed by Jodie Posen, developed and woven by Hannah Robson
3. *Bricks & Bindweed* fabric designed by Alice Chandler and Hannah Robson
4. *Fruit* fabric designed by Anna Ray with Hannah Robson
5. *Scanner Weaves* fabric designed by James Thompson and Hannah Robson
6. *Fruit* fabric on the loom, designed by Anna Ray, developed and woven by Hannah Robson
7. *Found Pattern* fabric designed by Jodie Posen, developed and woven by Hannah Robson
8. *Mesh* fabric designed by Hannah Robson
9. Hannah Robson operating the loom

Credit to Lucy Forrester at Proud Fox Creative for all images.  
Further high-resolution images are available on request.

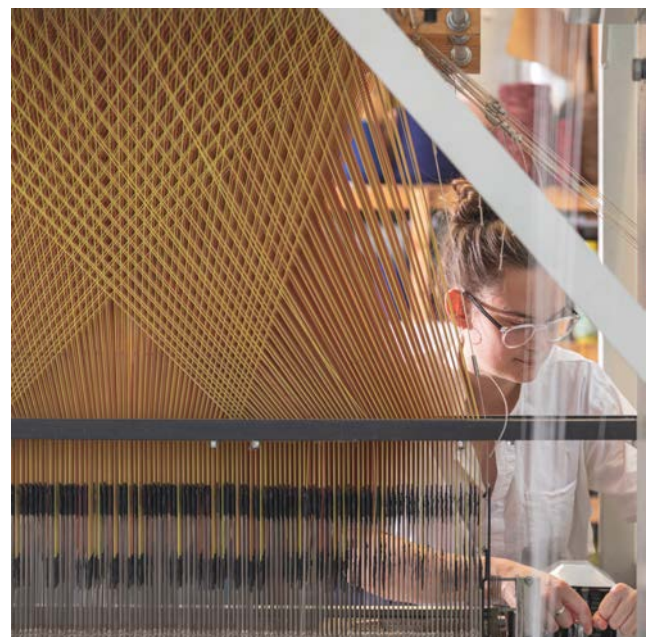
## Editors Notes

Leeds Inspired is part of the city's cultural programme that celebrates arts events and projects throughout the year, supporting high quality, accessible cultural experiences for Leeds' residents and visitors. Founded in 2012, Leeds Inspired supports culture in the city through grants schemes, commissions and a 'What's On' events website. Leeds Inspired is part of Leeds City Council.

[www.leedsinspired.co.uk](http://www.leedsinspired.co.uk)



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