

Laura Thomas Curriculum Vitae

Current position

2003-current	Freelance woven textile designer, consultant and artist, working independently from a fully equipped studio in the centre of Cardiff.
2007-current	Designer, Lasa International UK , Wales / Portugal
2006-current	Research Consultant, Creative Industries Research & Innovation Centre , Swansea, Wales
2006-current	Research Associate, Smart Clothes & Wearable Technology Centre , Uni. Of Wales, Newport
2004-current	Part time BA Contemporary Textiles tutor in weave at the West Wales School of the Arts .

Education and training

2001 - 2003	Design Fellow, Ann Sutton Foundation , international weave design research centre, UK. Founded in 2001, the ASF Studio was set up to raise the profile and design quality of woven textiles. It is equipped with the latest computerized sampling looms and software, used for the design research and development of woven textiles for diverse applications.
1999 - 2001	MA Constructed Textiles Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London
1996 - 1999	BA (HONS) Fashion/Textiles - First Class University of Central England, Gosta Green, Birmingham
1995 - 1996	Foundation Studies in Art and Design - Distinction Carmarthenshire College of Technology and Art, Jobs Well, Carmarthen

Commissions

2007	Textile and acrylic wall panel triptych, private commission, London
2006	Bartholomew House Kings Fund Project Five hand woven 'banners' for an NHS mental health teaching hospital in Hull, UK.
2005	Commission to design the 2005 Menter a Busnes Awards , Wales
2004	Textile wall hanging commission for The Crafts Study Centre foyer space, UK.
2003-04	Project Poetry! Collaborative visual arts/poetry project with Andrew Dilger, UK.
2003	Arts Council England South East . Three hand-woven fabric lengths for Brighton Office.
2002	Worshipful Company of Weavers . Wall hanging commission for City of London offices, which joined The V&A permanent collection in January 2005.

Freelance design

2007	Freelance Designer, Inch Blue , UK
2006	Freelance Designer, Natural Fibre Company , UK
2006	Woven samples sold to Larsen , USA
2005	Commission to produce fabric for the ' Cartref ' Welsh showcase exhibition at Casa Foa , Argentina.
2005	Woven samples sold to John Lewis Partnership , Montgomery Interior Fabrics and The Ashley Wilde Group , UK
2005	Freelance fabric design and production for Cazzul , a soft furnishings manufacturer, UK
2004-current	Freelance designer for Melin Tregwynt , UK
2003-04	Freelance jacquard designer for Parry Murray , UK
2003	Woven samples sold to Osborne and Little , UK
2003	The Wales Millennium Centre , Cardiff, Wales Textile design development for the primary auditorium.
2003	E&S Smith , UK . Design and development of woven home furnishing fabrics.
2002	Bedeck Ltd. , Ireland. Weave CAD design work for bed linen.
2000	Designer, Mitchell Denburg, C.A.M. CORP , Guatemala Developed a collection of woven home furnishing fabrics for George Spencer Designs, UK

Selected Exhibitions / Trade Shows

2007	Fibre Art Wales at the Designer Crafts @ Chelsea Town Hall , London
2007	'Origin' Crafts Council at Somerset House, London
2007	'Contemporary Traditional' Coterie, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, Wales
2007	Waterfront Gallery , two person show, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, Wales
2007	Group exhibition 'Llif' Oriel Myrddin Gallery , Carmarthen, Wales and Flow Gallery , London
2007	Stroudwater Textile Festival , Stroud, UK - selected as one of six primary artists for the festival
2006	'Catalyst' group exhibition at The Ruthin Gallery, Wales
2006	Wales@ Time Warner Building , New York
2006	Worshipful Company of Weavers wall hanging commission included in 'Penelope's Thread' exhibition at Victoria and Albert Museum
2006	'Inspired by Architecture' , group exhibition, Lesley Craze Gallery, London
2006	'Wool: a new perspective' West Wales School of the Arts BA Textiles staff and students exhibition, National Botanic Gardens, Wales
2005	Group exhibition at the West Wales School of the Arts
2005	'Verve' group exhibition at The Ruthin Gallery, Wales
2005	Solo exhibition at Context , textiles gallery in Cardiff Bay
2005	Textile showcase at the Welsh Clothing and Textiles Association , Caernarfon.
2005	Exhibition of textile design development work at Wales Millennium Centre , Cardiff.
2005	Ongoing exhibition and sale of work at Context , textiles gallery in Cardiff Bay, Wales
2004	Exhibition of work in the Arts Council of Wales Cardiff office.
2004	Ongoing exhibition and sale of work at Craft in the Bay , The Makers Guild of Wales gallery in Cardiff.
2004	COLLECT Crafts Council fair at The V&A, February 2004, represented by The Lesley Craze Gallery
2004	Exhibition and sale of work at The Lesley Craze Gallery , London
2002	Arts and Business , Contemporary Craft Exhibition, London
2002	Chelsea Crafts Fair , London. Exhibited first own label collection of throws & cushions.
2002	'One Year On at 100% Design' , London
2002	'The Ann Sutton Foundation' launch exhibition, Arundel, W. Sussex
2002	'Weave: Ann Sutton Foundation Design Fellows 2001 - 2003' , City Gallery, Leicester
2001	The Show , Royal College of Art
2001	London Fashion Week

Research / Consultancy

2006-current	Research Consultant, Creative Industries Research & Innovation Centre , Swansea, Wales
2005-2006	Visiting Research Fellow, Smart Clothes & Wearable Technology Centre at University of Wales, Newport, UK
2004	EU-funded GAIN licensing research project for Melin Tregwynt , UK.
2004-05	Cywaith Cymru Artworks Wales 'Artist at Work' residency. Collaborative R&D project with Hafod Grange Ltd, Port Talbot, Wales.
2003-04	Thermoplastic fabric research with Sam Walker, UK

Professional memberships

2006	Invited to join Fibre Art Wales
2004	Invited to join the Makers Guild in Wales . Full member since Oct 2006.

Teaching, lecturing and workshops

2004-current	Part time Weave tutor at the West Wales School of the Arts .
2006	Keynote lecture at the Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers annual conference
2005-07	Visiting Tutor in Textiles and Enterprise at the Swansea Institute of Higher Education
2005	Pembroke Civic Trust lecture
2005	Falmouth College of Art and Design BA Textiles visiting tutor.
2003	Planned and delivered a ' Weaving and Words ' workshop with poet Jackie Wills for the 'Horizons' drop-in centre in Hastings. Organised by The South as part of the 'Coastal Currents' festival.
2002	West Sussex Textile Teachers Consortium lecture.
2001-current	Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers : various workshops & lectures around the country.
2002-03	West Sussex Guild of Weavers Spinners and Dyers : helped develop and run "Foundations of Weave", 6 workshops introducing novices to weaving.
2001-02	Goldsmiths College of Art BA Textiles visiting tutor.
2002	Brighton University BA Fashion and Textiles visiting weave tutor.

Selected Awards

2007	Creative Wales Award from the Arts Council of Wales
2006	Selected designer featured in Cardiff Design Festival
2004	Theo Moorman Charitable Trust grant
2003	Arts Council Wales 'Capacity Building' grant
2001	Texere Yarns sponsorship prize
2000	Homes and Gardens Classic Design Award for "Aran" blanket designed for Melin Tregwynt in 1998. Now in the Victoria and Albert Museum permanent collection.
2000	Osborne and Little scholarship award
2000	Worshipful Company of Haberdashers Portfolio Award
2000	John Lewis Design Competition winner
2000	George Spencer Design Award winner
1999	Emma Jesse Phipps scholarship award

Selected media coverage and publications

Jan/Feb 2008	'What's Hot' Feature in Craftsman Craft & Design magazine
2008	Four images to be included in Drusilla Cole's new book ' Contemporary Textiles ' publication date to be confirmed
2007	Feature in Pembrokeshire Life
2007	2 page article in Pembrokeshire County Living (Issue 9)
2007	FiberArts re Creative Wales Award
2006	' Catalyst ' Ruthin Crafts Centre exhibition publication
June 2006	The Journal of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers – feature article and back cover
2005	' Verve ' Ruthin Crafts Centre exhibition publication
2005	Selvedge : picture of Crafts Study Centre commission
2004	Work chosen to illustrate the Arts Council of Wales Annual Report
2005	Work chosen to illustrate the Cultural Enterprise Annual Report and promotional leaflets
2003	Woman's Hour , Radio 4, feature about The Ann Sutton Foundation Fellows
2002	Living etc , designs included in photo shoot
2002 - 2003	Various articles about the ASF Fellows including The Times , The Independent , Textile View , International Textiles and Crafts Magazine
2002	Ann Sutton Foundation , publication to accompany The City Gallery exhibition
June 2002	Journal of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers – front cover
2001	Work chosen to illustrate Dept. of Culture, Media & Sport Annual Report

2001

Woven fabrics featured in a trend report in **International Textiles**

2001

Woven fabrics featured in **WGSN's** trend pages