

Current position

2003-current	Laura Thomas Woven Textiles: art, craft, design, education and curation.
2004-current	P/t BA Textiles: knit, weave & mixed media tutor in weave, Carmarthen School of Art. Co-course leader between 2013-2016.

Education and training

2001 - 2003	Weave Design Research Fellow, Ann Sutton Foundation , weave design research centre, UK.
1999 - 2001	MA Constructed Textiles Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London
1996 - 1999	BA (HONS) Fashion/Textiles - First Class , University of Central England, Birmingham
1995 - 1996	Foundation Studies in Art and Design - Distinction Coleg Sir Gar, Carmarthen

Commissions

2020	Artwork commission for Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust , 30 th anniversary magazine cover
2019	Large glass/textile garden artwork for private client, London.
2018	University of Wales Trinity Saint David , Camarthen Campus Library textile artwork commission
2017-18	Threads , an artist residency in Khamir Craft Centre, India, leading to new exhibition work to be shown in Nov 2018 in Ruthin Craft Centre, National Wool Museum, Aberystwyth Arts Centre. Managed by Fieldwork.
2017	Artwork for 'Gallery in a Box', Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre
Sept 2014	Design of outdoor architectural 'carpets' for London property development, with Walter Jack Studio
2013-2017	Artist consultant for YMCA Pontypridd architectural project
2013	14 awards for The Culture Awards , Canterbury, UK
2013	Arts & Business Cymru Awards
2013	Glass canopy, Llanelli town centre
2012	Series of three laminated glass wall panels for the Fairmont Hotel, Mecca
2012	14 awards for The Culture Awards , Canterbury, UK
2011	Nine laminated glass wall panels for the new Cynon Valley Hospital , Mountain Ash, S Wales, UK
2011	Series of four 'Loose Threads' sculptures purchased for the National Wool Museum collection, UK
2010-11	Museummaker triptych window commission for The Beaney in Canterbury.
2010	Five jacquard woven artworks for Carmarthen General Hospital
2009-11	Commission to create 12 awards for the Cardiff Design Festival
2009	Commission to create a vessel to celebrate the Ashes being played in Cardiff.
2008-ongoing	Private commissions for 'Loose Threads' artworks, UK.
2008	Private commission for a hand woven blanket inspired by traditional quilts, UK
2008	Memorial artwork for Milford Haven School , Pembrokeshire, UK
2008	Invited to develop a number of public art proposals for the Torfaen Iron Trails , South Wales, UK
2006	Bartholomew House 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. Now in The V&A permanent collection.

Freelance design

2004-current	Freelance designer for Melin Tregwynt , UK
2013	Weave consultancy to Donna Wilson
2012-2013	Weave consultancy for Blodwen General Stores
2011	Exclusive collection of blankets for the Heals Discovers Collection , UK
2007	Freelance designer, Lasa International UK , Wales / Portugal
2007, 2019	Freelance Designer, Inch Blue , UK
2006-2010	Freelance Designer, Natural Fibre Company , UK
2005	Commission to produce fabric for the ' Cartref ' Welsh showcase exhibition at Casa Foa , Argentina.
2003-06	Woven samples sold to Larsen, Osborne and Little, John Lewis, Montgomery Interior Fabrics and The Ashley Wilde Group
2003-04	Freelance jacquard designer for Parry Murray , UK
2003	Wales Millennium Centre , Cardiff. 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	Mitchell Denburg, C.A.M. CORP , Guatemala

Curation Projects

2021	' Blanket Coverage ' (working title), Llantarnam Grange, Cwmbran, Wales.
2018	' Rooted in Practice ', Carmarthen School of Art staff exhibition at Craft in the Bay, Cardiff.
2017	' A Darker Thread ', Oriel Myrddin, Carmarthen. Toured to Ruthin Craft Centre in 2018.
2015	' Connected Threads ' Tenby Museum, Pembrokeshire
2013	' Utility ' Craft in the Bay, Cardiff. Supporting publication.
2011	' Resonant Colour ' Llantarnam Grange, Cwmbran, Wales. Supporting publication.
2010	warp+weft co-curated with Meg Anthony, Oriel Myrddin, with an accompanying publication.
2010	warp+weft: from handloom to production , National Wool Museum.
2010	' Exposed: textiles in the open ', Fibre Art Wales at the National Botanic Garden of Wales

Selected Exhibitions

2019	Five pieces of work selected for the Eisteddfod 'Y Lle Celf' visual arts pavilion exhibition, Llanrwst
2018-2019	'Threads' Wales – India cultural exchange group exhibition, Ruthin Craft Centre. Touring to Aberystwyth Arts Centre, National Wool Museum and then to various venues tbc in India in 2020.
2018	'Rooted in Practice' , Craft in the Bay, Cardiff
2017	Grassi Messe , Leipzig, Germany
2017	'A Darker Thread' , Oriol Myrddin, Carmarthen. Toured to Ruthin Craft Centre in 2018.
2017	ArtSway , group exhibition, New Forest, UK
2017	Make , group exhibition, Ruthin Craft Centre
2016	Summer Show: Weave , Craft in the Bay, Cardiff
2016	15th Tapestry Triennial , Lodz, Poland. One of four artists chosen to represent the UK.
2016	'From Adams to Zobole: Fifty years of Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre' , Cwmbran
2015	'Connected Threads' Tenby Museum and Art Gallery
2014	Made by Hand , Cardiff City Hall
2014	'Fourteen' Llantarnam Grange , Cwmbran
2014	Maker in Focus, Oriol Myrddin
2013	Contemporary Craft Festival , Bovey Tracey, Devon
2013	Dialogue , Fibre Art Wales, Quilt Museum, York
2013	Art Craft , Cardiff Arts Collective
2013	Maker in Focus, Mission Gallery, Swansea
2013-14	Bournemouth University showcase exhibition
2013	Secret Cinema accompanying exhibition, London
2013	'Twisted Traditional' Unit 12, UK
2012	Made by Hand , Tredegar House, Newport
2012	Retro / Prospective , Brown Grotta Arts, USA
2012-14	Beauty is the first test: Contemporary Craft & Mathematics , Pumphouse Gallery, London, then on tour to 7 further venues around the UK
2012	Fibre Art Wales at the Eisteddfod
2012	The Makers Guild in Wales at Walford Mill
2011	Made by Hand , Tredegar House, Newport
2011	Christmas Exhibition @ Smith's Row , Bury St Edmunds
2011	'Origin' Contemporary Craft Fair
2011	Fibre Art Wales group exhibition at Newport Museum and Art Gallery , S Wales
2011	Represented by Ruthin Craft Centre at COLLECT, Saatchi Gallery
2011	Similar Threads , Oriol Mostyn Gallery shop, Llandudno
2011	Resonant Colour , Llantarnam Grange , Cwmbran
2010 – 2011	Inspired by Albers , Ruthin Craft Centre, & Dovecot Studio Gallery
2010 – 2011	Warp & Weft , Oriol Myrddin Gallery, Craft in the Bay & Smith's Row
2010	MidCentury Modern , London
2009	Leeds City Art Gallery , showcase exhibition.
2009	'Origin' Crafts Council at Somerset House, London
2009	Fibre Art Wales exhibition, Green Mountain College, Vermont, USA
2009	Fibre Art Wales exhibition, Rhondda Heritage Park
2009	Harley Gallery , showcase exhibition.
2009	Solo show at Sara Preisler Gallery , Custard Factory, Birmingham
2009	'Better than Grey: a serious consideration of colour' group show, Bury St Edmunds Art Gallery
2009	'Fibre Voices' Fibre Art Wales, Llantarnam Grange , Cwmbran & The Ucheldre , Holyhead .
2008	Newport Museum and Gallery solo showcase exhibition
2008	Represented by Brown Grotta Arts, USA , at SOFA
2008 - 2010	Represented by the PARKart Gallery at the Affordable Art Fair, London
2008	'Origin' Crafts Council at Somerset House, London
2008	Represented by the PARKart Gallery at the ICON pop-up store during the London Design Festival
2008	Kooywood Gallery Summer exhibition, Cardiff, Wales
2008	Two pieces of work selected for the Eisteddfod 'Y Lle Celf' visual arts pavilion exhibition
2008	'Marking Space' group exhibition, Mission Gallery , Swansea, Wales
2008 - 2012	Represented by 'A Chreffit' in the Eisteddfod Exhibition Hall
2008	HD Expo , hotel design trade show, Las Vegas, USA
2007	'Origin' Crafts Council at Somerset House, London
2007	Waterfront Gallery , two person show, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, Wales
2007	Group exhibition 'Llif' Oriol Myrddin Gallery , Carmarthen, Wales and Flow Gallery , London
2007	Stroud 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' National Botanic Gardens, Wales
2005	'Verve' group exhibition at The Ruthin Gallery, Wales
2005	Exhibition of textile design development work at Wales Millennium Centre , Cardiff.
2004	COLLECT Crafts Council fair at The V&A, February 2004, represented by The Lesley Craze Gallery
2002	Chelsea Crafts Fair , London. Exhibited first own label collection of throws & cushions.
2002	'One Year On at 100% Design' , London
2002	'Weave: Ann Sutton Foundation Design Fellows 2001 - 2003' , City Gallery, Leicester

Research / Consultancy / Project Management

2017	Coordination of 'Making in Natural Fibre Resource Pack' for Makers Guild in Wales for the Art Education Network South East
2016-17	Research and development of high-specification contract upholstery for Melin Tregwynt , UK.
2013	Research consultancy to Textiles Technology Project re weave sampling centre in Carmarthenshire
2011	Coordination of 'Off the loom' , a series of weave related lectures for the Stroud Textile Festival
2010-2011	Coordination of Continuing Professional Development programme for the Makers Guild in Wales
2008-2009	Consultancy, advice and guidance for the Shared Technology Resource Centre , Coleg Sir Gar, for a Feasibility Study and funding bid to become a Knowledge Transfer Centre
2007-ongoing	National Wool Museum consultancy to develop a student competition inspired by the archive
2006-2008	Research Consultant, Creative Industries Research & Innovation Centre , Swansea, Wales
2005-2006	Visiting Research Fellow, Smart Clothes & Wearable Technology , Uni. of Wales, Newport, UK
2004 EU-funded	GAIN licensing research project for Melin Tregwynt , UK.
2004-05	Cywaith Cymru Artworks Wales Artist @ Work residency. R&D project with Hafod Grange Ltd.

Teaching, lecturing and workshops

June 2019	Weave workshops for the Cheltenham Science Festival MakerShack
2003-ongoing	Community and school-based weaving workshops, including Criw Celf for A2 Connect, Peak Cynru, Arts Alive & Llantarnam Grange
2015	Visiting tutor, Herford College of Art
2013	Keynote speaker at Stroud International Textiles Weave symposium
2011	Visiting tutor, University for the Creative Arts (Farnham)
2011	Re Cynon Valley Hospital commission, community engagement weave workshops at primary schools
2009-ongoing	Various weave workshops, drop in sessions and talks at Ruthin Craft Centre
2009	Visiting lecturer, Nottingham Trent University
2009, 2018, 2019	Cardiff School of Architecture , lectures, workshops and tutorials
2008	Keynote Lecture, National Association of Advisors & Inspectors for Design Technology AGM
2006	Lecture given at Tokyo Zokei University
2006	Keynote lecture at the Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers annual conference
2005-08	Visiting Tutor in Textiles and Enterprise at the Swansea Metropolitan University
2005, 2013	Pembroke Civic Trust lecture
2005	Falmouth College of Art and Design BA Textiles visiting tutor.
2001-ongoing	Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers : various workshops & lectures around the country.
2002-03	West Sussex Guild of Weavers Spinners and Dyers : developed and ran "Foundations of Weave"
2002	Brighton University BA Fashion and Textiles visiting weave tutor.
2001-02	Goldsmiths College of Art BA Textiles visiting tutor.

Awards

2018	Longlist for WomenInspire Award , Chwarae Teg, Wales
2014	Craft Excellence Award , Made by Hand
2011	Winner, Cardiff Design Festival
2011	Finalist for an Inspire Wales Award (Institute for Welsh Affairs).
2010	Best Maker in Wales , Newport Council Award at Made By Hand
2009	Creative Wales Ambassador Award , Arts Council of Wales
2009	Finalist, Cardiff Design Festival
2008	Winner of the Wesley-Barrell Craft Award for Interior Textiles
2008	Winner of the Applied Arts Award at the Welsh Artist of the Year competition
2007	Creative Wales Award from the Arts Council of Wales
2004	Theo Moorman Charitable Trust grant
2003	Arts Council Wales Capacity Building grant
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

Selected Publications

2017	Wrote and compiled A Darker Thread exhibition catalogue, with Oriol Myrddin and Old School Design
2016	Feature in Surface Design Journal , written by Ian Wilson
2015	Featured in the Dictionary of Artists in Wales .
2013	Front cover of 'Thrum' Canadian poetry publication, Talonbooks
2013	Featured in the Design Students Handbook , by J. Bartholomew & S. Rutherford, Pub. Routledge
2012	Featured in 'warp and weft' by Dr Jessica Hemmings
2011	Wrote and compiled the 'Resonant Colour' exhibition publication for Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre
2010	Wrote and compiled the warp+weft exhibition catalogue, with Oriol Myrddin and Old School Design
2010	Wrote and compiled the warp+weft: from handloom to production exhibition publication, with National Museums and Galleries of Wales
2009	'10th Wave III: Art Textiles and Fiber Sculpture' published by Brown Grotta Arts
2009	'10: celebrating ten years of Fibre Art Wales' , book
2009	'Better than Grey: a serious consideration of colour' Bury St Edmunds exhibition catalogue.
2008	Featured in 'Textiles Now' by Drusilla Cole, published Oct 2008 by Laurence King
2006	'Catalyst' Ruthin Crafts Centre exhibition publication
2005	'Verve' Ruthin Crafts Centre exhibition publication