

JENNIFER ROBERTSON

The innovative woven textiles of Jennifer Robertson are a celebration of the language of thread. Her distinctively beautiful wearable artworks explore the nature of air, daylight and darkness, as well as our rich Australian landscape. Using a computerised and semi-automated loom, Jennifer is capable of executing designs that are technically very difficult. These designs demonstrate her ability to create work that, in contrast to the normally rigid nature of weaving, is free and responsive to her aesthetic and conceptual interests. The resulting textiles, often woven from Australian fine Merino wool, are rich and inventive in design, colour and texture, and reflect her desire to explore the poetic relationships in the Australian landscape.

Jennifer Robertson has been a practising textile artist for over fifteen years. Born in England, Jennifer studied at the West Surrey College of Art and Design before completing postgraduate studies in Woven Textiles at the Royal College of Art in London. In 1986, she and artist husband Christopher Robertson moved to Australia, where she has continued to develop her distinctive style of woven textiles that have gained international recognition and acclaim. Jennifer frequently lectures at several universities including Tokyo Zokei University, Japan, Sheridan College of Art and Design, Toronto, Canada, and the Australian National University, Canberra. She exhibits widely, both nationally and internationally, and has been the recipient of many awards and prizes in recognition of her leading-edge practice. Her work is held in several collections including the National Gallery of Australia, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Art Gallery of South Australia, the Smithsonian Institute (USA), Buckingham Palace (UK), and the personal collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1962 Born, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset, UK
- 1984 Bachelor of Arts (Hon) in Woven Textiles, West Surrey College of Art & Design, Surrey, UK
- 1984-85 Post Graduate Studies in Woven Textiles, Royal College of the Arts, London
- 1986 Migrated to Australia
- 1986-87 Established Weave Studio, Fremantle, WA
- 1991-94 Lecturer, Edith Cowan University, Perth
- 1997-00 Studio practice, Canberra
Lecturer, Canberra School of Art, Canberra
- 1999 Member of Textile Network Committee, ACT
Executive Committee Member, Shikat Project, Philippines
- 2000 Presentation of work to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on behalf of ACT Government
- 2004 Residency, Montreal Centre for Contemporary Textiles, Canada
- 2008 Residency, Fondazione Arte della Seta Lisio, Florence, Italy
- 2009 Speake, "Inspired Design, Entrepreneurial Jacquard Textiles", Centre for Craft, Creativity and Design, North Carolina, USA
Lecture, Sheridan College of Art and Design, Toronto, Canada
Lecture, Kyoto Seika University, Kyoto, Japan
Lecture, Kawashima Textile School, Kyoto, Japan
Lecture, Tokyo Zokei University, Tokyo

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 "Weaving Air", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2004 "Tripleweave", Craft ACT; Montreal Centre for Contemporary Textiles, Canada; Livingstone Studio, London
- 2001 "Double Portion" Craft ACT, Canberra; Craft West, WA
- 2000 "Wooly Mantle", Brisbane City Gallery
- 1998 "Solo", Focal Point, Craft ACT Gallery, Canberra

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 "Art Work", ANU School of Art Gallery, Canberra
"Transitions", Scarf Festival, National Wool Museum, Geelong, Vic
Wangaratta Contemporary Textile Award, Vic
"Bravura", Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
- 2008 "Freestyle", Design Triennale Museum, Milan, Italy
"Botanicals", Object Gallery, Sydney

- "Threadbare", Manning Regional Gallery, Taree, NSW
"Texture and Light", joint exhibition with Christopher Robertson, Narek Galleries, Tanja, NSW
2007 "Smartworks", Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
2005 "Design-ed", ANU School of Art Gallery, Canberra
2004 "Collect", Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
"The Space Between", PICA, Perth
City of Hobart Art Prize", Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart
"Miniartextil: International Miniature Textiles", Como, Italy, Nule, Sardinia; Montrouge, France
2002 "Australian Craft", Mokka Gallery, Seoul Korea
City of Perth National Craft Award
"Trademarks" Craft ACT, Canberra ACT
Kyoto Seika University, Kyoto, Japan
2001-02 "Floral emblems of Australia" Australian National Botanic Gardens, ACT
2001 "20th National Craft Award" MAGNT, Darwin, NT
"Divergence" Siam Centre, Bangkok and Chang Mai University, Thailand
City of Perth National Craft Award
2000-02 "Frisson", 14th Tamworth Fibre Biennial, Tamworth City Gallery, touring nationally
2000-01 "Loom", Artlounge Gallery, Adelaide, SA; Craft Victoria
2000 "Strength to strength", Craft ACT
"Folding", Itami Art and Craft Museum, Hyogo Pref, Japan
"Miniatures", galler Gallery, Kyoto, Japan
"Domestic Design" Craft ACT, Canberra
"In our hands", Nagoya, Japan
1999 "Touching the Landscape", Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra
Livingstone Gallery, London
"25th Alice Craft Acquisition", Crafts Council of the Northern Territory
"Folding", Dowse Art Museum, Wellington, New Zealand
"Christmas Collection '99", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Beaver Galleries, Canberra
1997 "17th National Craft Acquisition Award", Museum and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory
1996 "The Language of Thread", Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
Gestaltendes Handwerk, Munich, Germany
1995 "Victorian Health National Craft Award", National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
1994 "4th International Textile Competition", Kyoto, Japan

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2005-6 Velvet Jacquard Prototype Commission, Historic Houses Trust, Government House, Sydney
2005 Export Market Development Grant, Austrade
Export Market Entry Grant, Business ACT
2004 Canberra Times Critics Circle Award
2001-03 Australia Council Fellowship, VACF
2001 Canberra Critics Circle Award
2000 Renwick Alliance Group, Smithsonian Institute, USA
Quick REsponse Grant, artsACT
1998 N.S Research Grant, Australian National University, Canberra
Commission for Prof Martha Sung Won Lee, Korea
1996 Project Grant, Australia Council
1991 Collaborative furniture for D Walker and M Ainscow
1988 Major Fibre Optic commission for the Museum of Science and Technology, WA

PUBLICATIONS

- 2008 *Inspired Design*, Centre for Craft, Creativity and Design, USA
2007 *Smartworks: Design and the Handmade*, exhibition catalogue, ed. Grace Cochrane, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
2006 *Freestyle*, ed. Brian Parkes, Thames and Hudson, London

- 2005 "Two Shades of Excellence", *Sunday Times*, October 16th
Article, *Selvedge*, UK, May/June
- 2004 Article, *Object*, issue 44, pg 25
"Collect", Victoria and Albert Museums, London, UK
Article, *Canberra Times*, March 12th
- 2002 *Coast to Coast*, ABC television program, May 19th
Stateline, ABC television program, September 13th
Article, *Craft Arts International*, issue 56, October/November
- 2001 Article, *Canberra Times*, March & April
Article, *Craft Bulletin*, Craft Victoria, volumes 1 & 2
Snapshots, ABC television program, April
"Double Portion", David Bromfield, *West Australian*
- 2000 Article, *Canberra Chronicle*, March 28th
"Frisson", *Craft Arts International*, October
Article, *Object*, issue 4, pg 89
Fibrearts magazine, December/January
- 1999 Profile, *Craft ACT*, November/December
- 1997 *Nouvel Objet II*, Design House Publications, Seoul, South Korea
Masters of their Craft, Noris Ioannou, Craftsman House, Sydney
- 1995 Profile, *Textile Fibre Forum* magazine, Winter
- 1994 *West Australian Weekend* magazine, January
Profile, *Craftwest*, Crafts Council of Western Australia
- 1991 *International Crafts*, Martina Margetts, Thames and Hudson, London
- 1989 *Modern Australian Furniture*, Michael Bogle, Craftsman Press, Sydney
"Interior, Architecture and Design", YPMA Sydney, issue 21

REPRESENTED

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth; Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory; Buckingham Palace, London, UK; Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum, New York, USA; Cleveland Museum, Ohio, USA; Oakland Museum, California, USA; Renwick Alliance, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, USA