

# A CELEBRATION OF SHIRELY CRAVEN

Alison Little is a Liverpool based artist who works across the creative sector. Through her craft practise she retails her range of sock toys and cards in Liverpool and across the UK. Her most recent was for Up for arts based at radio Merseyside: in this she worked with a group to generate ideas are disability and abelism. She adressed everything from feeling around loosing an arm to thoughts in regards to a close relative becoming permiscuious through bi-polar disorder, the final outcome being a leg stuffed with statements from the participants. Alison is also a tutor for Liverpool Independent art School, as one of the founding members she helped to set the school up and her teaching is mostly textiles craft based. Other workshops include a group of mental health volunteers for the Blue coat Gallery in Liverpool. In this the produced 'Buddy the Volunteer Dog'. Prior to this she complete a 4 week booking with KDVSS, a domestic violence service were we produced a range of T Shirts with anti violence slogans. Working across the UK her work has also taken her further afield, visiting the Netherlands in 2010 for an art contest. Involved with numerous Art for thee Public Realm projects in the past including: Go Superlambanana, Go Penguin in Liverpool in addition to the horse Parade in Cheltenham. Using re-claimed materials is common within her practice, her forms are not simply art pieces but also statements in regards to environmental sustainability. In 2011 she produced work for the Nottingham Biennial: Block of Hell Frozen Over using heat seal technologies and re-claimed plastic bags. Other recycled public art projects include 'Deer and Stag' for Kendal calling in 2010. Her creative endeavours are to included the project management of Rags Boutique. More recently she completed a commission for Business in the Community Northwest. In this she reformed car tires to make business attire, high heels to business style cases. Presented at Aintree Racecourse, a strong collection viewed by industry leaders.

Rags Boutique was a six week project to open a disused retail unit as an exhibition space and a workshop venue. Alison was successful in gaining funding from the Shops up Front scheme ran by Liverpool City Council intended to support regeneration through the opening up of disused retail units as venue's for Arts and other projects which are of benefit to the community. In this the use of recycled materials was a primal concern of the project. Using newspaper, plastic bags and other readily available materials she created a fashion Boutique from entirely recycled materials. The Boutique was open to the public and visited by many from across the city and from further afield. The window display was key to the success of the project. In this the windows were signed using cut vinyl in the style of the Boutique and the window displays were created in the style of the Boutique. The mannequin' were clothed in newspaper creations which were sprayed with a combination of acrylics and water based emulsions to created a male and female which were visually stunning.

Women's rights and feminist are key to her creative practice her concept based works covers the realm of sexual violence and disorders such as Bi Polar. She is part of the Organising comitee for the Liverpool Reclaim the Night march which takes place annually at the end of April. She is a persuasive influence in feminist networks and regularly attends conferences and events organised by groups of this nature. Curation of the exhibition, 'End the silence around sexual Violence' is one of her first activiaties for 2017, looking to run the exhibition around the same time as the Reclaim the Night march.

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Celebrate Hull traditional craft of textiles from the medieval export of wool and the town based weaving and dyeing which was an essential industry in the main intention. Looking towards the sixteenth and seventeenth export of cloth towards the more modern trade in hemp for rope making and flax importation for sail making. Current wool transported to Hull from Australia and New Zealand to be incorporated within the workshop activities. The main goal is to produce a range of wall hangings to celebrate her collection of over forty designs produced by Hull Traders. Each wall hanging is to take on a different theme and engage in different methods and degrees of participation from various groups within the region. The venue for the workshops to be set up with large scale prints of Craven's work, quote from herself and other about her practice and the potential for cardboard furniture from the heyday of Hull Traders.

The first hanging is to engage in knitting processes to reproduce the award winning 'le bosquet' using the simple stockinette stitch, the main process being that of colour duplicate work. Participant to work on individual squares to be joined together by the artist. Potential for the artist to go out to various textiles groups within the region and option for work to be taken away and brought back when completed for those who show a strong dedication to the knitting process.

The second wall hanging to be based around the print 'Lomax'. With similarities with the first wall hanging, participants are to work on individual sections, this time to utilise shaping process' through crochet.

The third piece is to look at creating work inspired by 60's psychedelic culture used by Shirley Craven throughout her designs. Participants to work with paint medium to create designs to be developed into a weave by the artist. The weaving process to be ongoing throughout the workshops to allow the craft work to be show cased.

The fourth wall hanging to be based around the theme of gender equality and the textiles industry. Artist to generate a discussion group and look to invite various speakers from women's groups and feminist initiatives within Hull. Discussion to be generated around why traditional women's crafts are paid less than male dominated industries and implications around domesticity. Focus around success of Shirley Craven herself and other contemporary artists such as Tracey Emin who have utilised the medium of textile to achieve higher level incomes. Discussion to look at the global issues around the textile productions, the sweet shops of South America and Asia and how conditions could be improved through Global initiatives. Final discussions around initiatives proposed by the newly formed Women's Equality Party where they looked to push girls towards maths and science and away from the Arts, is this right or wrong? Motives towards the workshop, not simply high level professional demanding a six figure salary, equal to their male counterparts but also to engage women who may simply look at producing textiles for sale as a means of income while they are raising a young family. Participants to contribute by writing statements, jotting down notes and small doodles themed around the issues raised. Artist to look at graphical processes to represent and created a commercial printed wall hanging, incorporating Craven's original prints and a knitted border to keep inline with other wall hangings.

Alison has valid CRB disclosure is currently fully available and has the relevance public liability insurance.