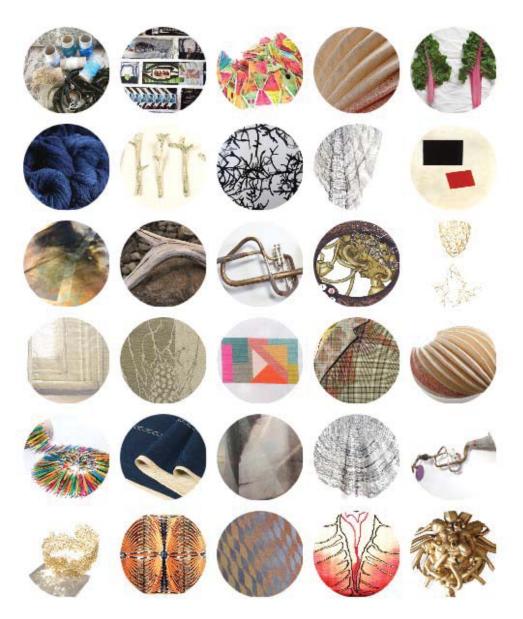
TAMWORTH regional lery

Group Exchange:

2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial

Education Kit



Group Exchange: 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial was developed by Tamworth Regional Gallery and curated by Cecilia Heffer.











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Acknowledgements

These notes were written and compiled by Kate Armstrong, Education Officer at Tamworth Regional Gallery. Thank you to Sandra Mc Mahon (Gallery Director), Cecilia Heffer (Exhibition Curator), Pam Brown (Exhibitions and Public Programs), Vivien Thompson (Gallery and Museum Officer) and the artists for their assistance with the development of this kit.

How to use this education kit

This education kit has been developed to accompany Tamworth Regional Gallery's touring exhibition *Group Exchange: 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial*, curated by Cecilia Heffer. This kit draws information from the catalogue essay, artist's proposals, artists websites, artists talks at Tamworth Regional Gallery and artists statements. It encourages students to engage in the actual experience of viewing works in a gallery space. It developed with the K-6, 7-10 and 11-12 NSW Syllabi in mind.

This kit was developed to assist teachers prepare a visit to *Group Exchange: 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial* but also may be of use for tertiary students, public program staff and the general public.

Group Exchange: 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial features the works of 22 selected artists working in contemporary textile arts in Australia. This exhibition has a focus on the exchange and collaboration of ideas and practice.

This kit includes an introduction to the history of textiles in the Tamworth Regional Gallery Collection as well as highlighting feature works, suggested activities and focus questions. Further discussion points and activities based on the current exhibition are offered. This kit can be used pre and post visit and includes useful weblinks to artist's websites, relevant articles, blogs and industry sites for further study.

These notes may be used in conjunction with the exhibition catalogue, which includes essays by Curator Cecilia Heffer as well as further images and information about the works in the exhibition, the Group Exchange Artists Book, the 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial Blog and the Kid's Art Trail.

Introduction

The 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial is a key calendar event that provides an opportunity to view current thinking and making in Australian textile practice. In this Triennial 22 artists have been invited to explore themes around collaboration, interdisciplinary thinking and the cross pollination of ideas. A panel of experts, including Robert Bell, Senior Curator of Decorative Arts and Design, National Gallery of Australia, selected artists for their originality and depth of vision. As leading creative thinkers they questioned what collaboration can mean for their practice, and demonstrated to us how new work and meaning emerges from relationship and exchange. *Group Exchange* presents the extraordinary work that has emerged from this enquiry.

Museum culture, tertiary education and our industry sectors are increasingly engaging with creative ideas outside traditional parameters of practice. New relationships and approaches to invention and innovation are opening a space for artists and the public to engage with emerging contemporary practice. Collaboration can provide an opportunity to look at ways to nurture and sustain a vital textile cultural heritage. How can collaboration find new directions for future textile practice and how can new alliances provide mentorship for our emerging talent?

To facilitate collaboration, the artists were flown to Tamworth in July 2013, to spend a weekend getting to know each other, introducing their practice and becoming familiar with the gallery space. As a result *Group Exchange* has developed into a creative partnership between the artist and the Triennial—it is a group collaboration, an intellectual and cultural endeavor.

The work presented in *Group Exchange* showcases the artists' diverse approaches to textile practice. In some cases artists have embraced the theme in a quiet and personal way, taking the opportunity to recalibrate their practice and reflect on their relationship with their materials. Others have engaged in a complex exchange of ideas and expertise outside of their usual discipline. *Group Exchange* invites you to enjoy these overlapping circles of collaboration, and to explore the vibrant, multivalent practice of contemporary Australian textile art. The exhibition demonstrates the depth and diversity of thinking, materiality and process with which the artists collectively engaged on their creative journey.

Curator Cecilia Heffer

Kate Campbell-Pope



Alana Clifton-Cunningham



Kate Campbell-Pope is an artist working mostly in small scale sculpture. Her work employs a broad range of skills and processes. The main underlying theme for Kate's work for *Group Exchange: 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial* is the shared human experiences of grief and loss. The fine manipulative work reflects the detailed examination and intense focus that grief evokes.

Kate lives and works in Western Australia.

Alana's lives and works in Sydney. Her work practice focuses on utilising knitting and combining it with contemporary applications.

Alana explores and experiment with alternative forms, shapes with knitting here functioning as a vehicle for deconstruction, with familiar garment edifices transformed into disarticulated 'body pieces'.

Read more at http://www.alanacliftoncunningham.com/

Gwen Egg



Sandy Elverd



Gwen is a textile and fibre artist whose exhibition work celebrates nature with understated technique and eloquent forms. What began as a passion for weaving with natural materials became, for her, a language with which to explore texture and form in familiar landscapes — I work at stitching the colours and textures that sustain me ... weaving familiar territory.

Gwen lives and works in Tasmania.

Sandy lives and works in South Australia.

Sandy has a strong skill base in basket weaving and incorporates natural materials found on the land in her work.

For this work, Sandy focused on the life and work of Daisy Baits. Sandy worked closely with The South Australian Museum when creating her work for the 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial.

Read more at: http://www.sandyelverd.com.au/

Louisa Ennis-Thomas



Louisa Ennis Thomas is a mixed media artist whose works explore the cross over between painting, drawing and sculpture. Her creative approach investigates the pursuit of new surfaces, textures and challenging materials.

Louisa lives and works in Cairns, Far North Queensland and frequently draws upon textiles to bridge the divide between nature and culture.

Read more at http://www.louisaennisthomas.com/

Erica Gray



Erica was born in New Zealand and now lives in Queensland, Australia. Her creative background is primarily in fashion. Erica likes to experiment with materials and forms.

Of her work Erica says:

"I want my work to pull the viewer in different directions, I want them to identify with some elements as well as to discover new unfamiliar depths".

Read more at http://www.zoran.com.au/erk/

Penny Evans



Penny's current practice is across mediums. She works in the area of ceramics, artist's books involving collaging and sewing, and also film.

Penny's work for the *Group Exchange: 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial* is made up of 226 components, representing the 226 years since the beginning of colonisation in Australia.

Read more at http://pennyevansart.com.au/

Hilary Green



Hilary Green works and lives in Tasmania. Her work for the *Group Exchange: 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial* is inspired by the heirloom vegetables that she grows.

Hilary's work focuses mostly on hand woven tapestry and works on paper.

Hilary lives and works in Tasmania

Tim Gresham



Tim a tapestry weaver, designer and photographer. He grew up in Queensland and now lives and works in Melbourne.

Photographs Tim took on a holiday to Tasmania are the inspiration for his work in the *Group Exchange: 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial*. Of his work Tim says "Suggestive of music, the rhythmical imagery I use in both mediums reflects similar ideas of repetition and subtle disruption of pattern".

http://www.timgresham.com/

Kath Inglis



Kath was raised in Darwin and now lives in Adelaide. Kath studied contemporary jewellery and hers is a material based maker in that significant relationships are formed between the material, maker and tool.

Since 2001 her practice has focused on the manipulation and transformation of a commonplace material, Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC), into the precious.

Read more at http://www.kathinglis.com/

Mandy Gunn



Mandy lives and works in Victoria. She works mainly with sculpture, installing and assemblage using recycled materials often constructed with textile linked techniques.

Mandy says of her materials: "Most of my work engages with familiar waste, the sort that is handled regularly by most people and often thrown out but in some special cases kept or collected".

Read more at http://www.mandygunnart.com/

Anita Larkin



Anita has made sculpture from collected objects and handmade felt for the past 20 years. Her current practice brings together these two fields of making in unexpected ways.

Anita lives and works in New South Wales. Her works for the *Group Exchange: 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial* was a collaboration with musicians and instrument makers.

Read more at http://www.anitalarkin.com/

Gillian Lavery



Make.Shift Concepts



Gillian's current practice focuses on working with drawing in an expanded sense with stitching another form of drawing. Much of her current work investigates a recent house fire and her resulting grief

Her work for the 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial was created by stitching for 10 minutes every day focusing on her breath.

Read more at http://www.gillianlavery.com/

Make.Shift Concepts comprises of two interdisciplinary collaborators: Armando Chant, textile practitioner and Donna Sgro, fashion practitioner. Their combined practice allows for an active exploration of hybrid methods and processes, blending techniques from architecture, fashion and textiles, as well as manual and digital production.

Read more at http://www.makeshiftconcepts.com/

Kim McKechnie



Lorna Murray



"I descend from a line of tailors. It could be said that cloth is in my blood". Kim McKechnie, 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial: Group Exchange exhibition catalogue

Kim's work for this exhibition explores the elegance of the language of the tailor—each stitch, dart, buttonhole, pocket or lapel. She is inspired by past tailors in her family heritage and their technique and mastery of the art of the tailor.

For Sydney-based artist and designer Lorna Murray, global foraging fires her imagination and compels her vibrant creative practice. She is a journeywoman on a quest to discover the fascinating and rich history of textile crafts and traditions. This has nourished her global consciousness, and career as a leading textile artist and art teacher/lecturer.

Read more at www.lornamurray.com.au

Jemima Parker



Jemima Parker is a Canberra based emerging artist and screen-printer. She uses traditional textile materials and methods, along with drawing and printmaking processes to create work that moves between disciplines and blurs boundaries of creative practice.

Read more at www.jemimaparker.com

Louise Tuckwell



Louise is a Sydney based artists whose work is driven by an interest in geometric patterns in the every day.

In her application for *Group Exchange: 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial*, Louise described herself as a:

"non-objective artist who paints and makes tapestries"

Patrick Snelling



Patrick was born in London and now lives and works in Melbourne.

Patrick has been exhibiting and creating for 25 years. His work explores the relationship between craft traditions and technology through printed textiles.

Read more at http://www.patrickwsnelling.com/

Monique van Nieuwland



Monique's work encompasses loom weaving, Jacquard weaving, printing with pigments and dyes, as well as mixed media. She lives and works in Canberra.

In her work for *Group Exchange: 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial*, Monique created a piece with images of marine plants using recycled plastics, netting and dyed fishing line on a Jacquard loom.

Belinda von Mengersen



"The table is a site of cultural engagement; a place where meals are eaten, skills are shared, contemplation occurs, stories are told, and crisis may unfold"

Belinda von Mengersen

Belinda's work for the *Group Exchange:* 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial, focuses on the table as a stage for scenes to unfold, an exploration of this centre of domestic life.

Ilka White



Ilka White's practice spans projects in textiles, drawing, sculpture and installation, video, art-in-community and cross disciplinary collaboration.

Direct engagement with the natural world (and the forces at work therein) is central to Ilka's art making process.

Read more at www.ilkawhite.com.au

Tour dates

Tamworth Regional Gallery 16 August - 18 October 2014

Gosford Regional Gallery 10 January – 22 March 2015

UTS Gallery Sydney 14 April – 14 May 2015

Town Hall Gallery, Hawthorn, VIC 6 June – 26 July 2015

Port Pirie Gallery, South Australia 22 August- 4 October 2015

Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo, NSW 17 October 2015 – 17 January 2016

Wangaratta Art Gallery 30 January – 13 March 2016

Craft ACT 7 April – 15 May 2016

Wollongong Art Gallery 28 May – 28 August 2016

Glasshouse Port Macquarie
3 September – 30 October 2016

^{*} Dates correct at time of publication

History

Tamworth Regional Gallery has a long history with the textile arts. From its beginnings of an extension of the local arts and crafts show, the Tamworth exhibition pioneered the way for showcasing Australia's pre-eminent textiles artists. A national fibre exhibition of this scope was without precedent in Australia, and today there are few exhibitions providing a comprehensive survey of current contemporary practice.

Sandra McMahon, Tamworth Regional Gallery Director

The beginnings...

Tamworth Arts and Craft Society began holding competitive art exhibitions in the late 1960s, but the main focus was on paintings, with a minor section for 'crafts'. The first exhibition was held in the Wallamore Road Art and Craft Centre, a converted fertilizer shed. A collection of works previously acquired was hung in the Tamworth City Art Gallery for the duration of the Fibre Exhibition.

From these humble beginnings, and due to great dedication and interest from core group of artists from the Tamworth Region and beyond, it developed into a fibre exhibition with an open entry system in the 1980s to a professionally selected and curated show in the 90s. The evolution into the current format of the triennial occurred in 2011 when it was decided to hold this exhibition every 3rd year rather than every 2nd— and the Tamworth Textile Triennial came to be.

Now in it's second phase, the 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial has attracted applications from artists working in the contemporary textile art practice from every state and territory in Australia.

Group Exchange: 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial highlights the work of 22 contemporary artists in fibre textile arts and is a 'snapshot' of current and future practice. Works this year centre around the theme of collaboration and exchange. Artists have worked in partnership with other artists, musicians, craftspeople and their materials and environment in creating works for this exhibition.

The resulting exhibition is a thought provoking insight into the practice of fibre textile art in Australia.

Suggested activities

The following pages contain suggested activities, discussion points and worksheets that teachers and Gallery staff may like to duplicate for class visits to *Group Exchange: 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial*. These activities are designed to engage students with the works they experience in the Gallery setting, bringing their knowledge and understanding to the experience whilst learning new things through the Gallery experience of *Group Exchange: 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial*.

The following pages are organised into the following categories:

Early Stage 1—Stage 1

Stage 2-3

Stage 4-5

Stage 6

Weblinks and further reading

Primary School Connections

Infants focus Early Stage 1- Stage 1 Find this work



Anita Larkin, The breath between us, 2014 collected objects, leather and felted wool. 72 h x 293 w x 35 d cm. Photographer: Lou Farina. FarinaFoto

Anita worked with men named Mark and Richard to make this work.

Mark is a musician and Richard plays and fixes brass instruments like trumpets and trombones.

Can you play a musical instrument?

f you could touch this work, would it be rough or smooth? How many people do you think it would take to carry this instrument?
magine that you could play this instrument. What kind of sound do you think it would make? Would it be loud or soft?
What is used to attach this work to the wall? Where have you seen these pefore?

Try this activity back at school...

Find pictures of instruments and using different parts of different instruments create your own wacky instrument for two!

Infants focus Early Stage 1- Stage 1

Can you find this piece?

Ilka White likes to take walks to a billabong that is near her house. She likes to sit by the billabong and think.

What do you think this work is made from?
If you could pick it up, would it be light or heavy?
If you had this item in your house what would you put in it?
What would it feel like if you could touch it?

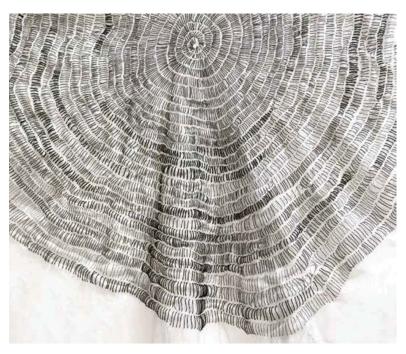


In the space below, add a sketch or drawing of this work.

Ilka White, Well, 2013, dry grass, hand spun thread, 44 h x 15 w x 15 d cm

Infants focus Early Stage 1- Stage 1

Find the work by Gillian Lavery



Gillian Lavery, *Pranayama* (detail), 2014. Silk, cotton thread, millinery wire. 110 h x 110 w cm. Photographer: Miho Watanabe

What shape can you see in this artwork?

Imagine you are tracing these tiny lines with your finger. What kind of movements are you making?

This artwork o	only uses two o	colours. What a	are they?	and

Try to fill the box below with tiny lines, that are close but do not touch. You'll have to concentrate, it's harder than it seems!

Infants focus Early Stage 1- Stage 1

Look for Belinda von Mengerson's artwork with a table



Belinda von Mengerson The table, 2014, woden table, cloth. Table 73h x 128 w, 67 d cm. Cloth 186 h, 114 w cm. Image:

Part of this artwork is a table from a family member's house that the
artist Belinda visited a lot when she was a little girl.
What colour is the table in this artwork?

In this box, draw a picture of this table and add people you know. They might be your family or friends. What are they doing at the table?

Draw a line to connect the artist name with the description that best suits their work

A gold soft sculpture with claws or spikes poking out

Louise Tuckwell

A table with a white, yellow, cream and beige printed cloth hanging above it

Patrick Snelling

A hand made suit with a fish shape printed on it

Hilary Green

Bright, bold shapes woven in square tapestries

Lorna Murray

Six long hanging pieces of cloth in indigo (blue) and beige

Erica Gray

Brightly coloured tiny paper umbrellas sewn together with coloured thread, displayed with a carved wooden sewing machine

Belinda von Mengersen

A circular weaving in pink, red and white with long strands dangling from the bottom of the circle.

Kim McKechnie

Find Sandy Elverd's artwork which includes a suitcase



Sandy Elverd, Veiled Strands of History (detail), 2014, found and gifted objects, hand stitched gloves, felt hat with hand stitched ribbon. Image: Lou Farina

Who do you think may own this suitcase? Where might they be taking this suitcase?		
Imagine you could open and unpack this suitcase. Draw w think might be inside.	hat you	

Try this activity back at school...

Write a description of the suitcase owner. Use your imagination to describe their appearance, where they live and what they do.

View Tim Gresham's tapestry



Tim Gresham, Shift Memory, 2014, wool, cotton. 80 x 150 cm. Image: Lou Farina

Tim created this work after a holiday to Tasmania. On this holiday he took many photos of the scenery there and used one to create a work about the beauty of the Tasmanian landscape.

List the colours you can see in this work.

Notice how you can't tell exactly where one colour stops and the next begins, it is perfectly blended. The word artists use for this is *gradation*.

Try this activity back at school...

Use school library to find a picture of the Tasmanian landscape.

This will be the inspiration for your artwork!

Select chalk pastels or oil pastels in the same colours that Tim Gresham used to create his work. Using repeated lines and shading recreate Tim's work. Gradate the colours as Tim has by blending the colours using your finger. Try to make it so that it is hard to tell where one colour ends and the other begins.

Choose your favourite work at the Gallery today.

Artist:	
Title:	
Materials:	
Explain what you like about this	work
Draw the work you selected. Ur	nder your drawing write a list of thuse to describe this work.

Secondary Stage 4- Stage 5

Select a work from the exhibition. Copy the information from the wall label on the table below:

Artist:	
Artist: Name of work:	
Materials used:	
Date of work:	
Imagine you are trying to describe this work to someone who has not seen it. Write an objective description of the work as if you describing it to somebody who is not at the exhibition. Describe the size, texture, colour, shape, subject matter and materials used.	
Now add your interpretation of the work, what it reminds you of, what it could mean and how the artist's information supplied on the wall label has informed your responses.	ne

Secondary Stage 4- Stage 5

The Tamworth Textile Triennial is an exhibition that is professional selected and curated meaning that artists whose work you see here had to apply to be part of the show and create a work specially for this exhibition. Consider the exhibition and critically reflect on an artist or artwork that you would not have selected had you been the curator. Explain your choice.
Find a number of works that you can connect with a theme, it may be a use of materials, a similar colour or similar arts practice. Name the works below and explain the connection you have found
Can you find any works that utilises signs and symbols? Identify the work and discuss the use of these symbols and the effect they have on the viewer.

Secondary Stage 4- Stage 5

Select two contrasting works in this exhibition.
Record the information from the wall labels below.
Artist:Name of work:
Name of work:
iviateriais useu
Date of work:
Artist:
Name of work:
Materials used:
Date of work:
Compare and contrast these works. Consider the use of materials, tools the artists may have used, size, scale and subject matter.
Observe the exhibition design of <i>Group Exchange: 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial</i> . Imagine you are the curator. How would you install this exhibition? How would you organise the exhibition to engage the audience?

FRAMES

Structural Frame: What materials have been used to create the works in this exhibition?
What other uses do textiles have in our society?
What symbolic meaning does the use of textiles have? Consider its other functions, uses and properties.
What signs and symbols can you see in this exhibition? What do they convey to the viewer?
This exhibition reflects current and emerging practice in the fibre textile arts. Which work has challenged you as a viewer today and why?
Subjective Frame: What is your first impression of this exhibition?
Do you like the exhibition? Explain your answer
Select a work you are immediately drawn to. Explain what you like about this work. Reflect on how it makes you feel, what it reminds you of and your emotional response to the work.

Select one work that you would nominate as your least favourite work in the exhibition. Explain why this is so. View <i>Cloudscape</i> , Make.Shift Concepts. What emotions do you think the artists are trying to evoke in the work? Do you think this is a successful work? Why do you think the artists made this work?	
What message do you think the artist is	
conveying in this work?	 Monique van Nieuwland, Ocean Scape (detail), 2014. Cotton linen warp, fishing line, fishing net, shopping bags, rubbish bags, onion, net, rope, audio/video tape 260 h x 100 w cm Photographer: The artist
Do you feel this is a successful work? Explai	in your answer.
	<u> </u>

After viewing Ocean Scape can you surmise what the artist's stance on drag net fishing, shore developments and chemical pollution in the ocean is? What signs or symbols or materials has the artist used to convey this meaning? _____ Structural Frame: What are the primary materials used by the artists? What processes are used? What formal conventions are used? Reflect on perspective and composition of the works. _____ View Louise Tuckwell's works. Select one work in her collection and imagine you are describing this work to someone who has not seen it. Write an objective description of the work as if you describing it to somebody who is not at the exhibition. Describe the size, texture, colour, shape, subject matter and materials used.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES...

- *Many of these artists collaborated with other creative artists and professionals to develop their work for this exhibition. Find other artists collectives and research how they work together.
- *Research further the history of textile and fibre arts in Australia, including Aboriginal and Indigenous culture and the early colonies. How has the use of textile and fibre changed in the last 200 years in Australia?
- *Read articles supplied in the weblinks section do this kit. Research the art practice of a number of artists

Close study of a work

Group Exchange: 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial was developed with the concept of collaboration central to the development of works. Curator Cecilia Heffer's driving focus was the theme of collaboration and what this process can bring to an artist's practice.

* View Anita Larkin's work The Breath Between Us, and view the youtube clip she has created showing the collaboration process, her technique and discusses the development of her concept.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1tMFiYziy4

Summarise what you understand about Anita Larkin's art making practice and concept development after viewing this clip by listing points under the following headings:

- -Intentions
- -Collaboration
- -Choices about material and materiality
- -Skills specifically developed to produce this work
- -Procedure and actions
- -Self-evaluation

Research Anita's previous works, and her history with felt making and sculpture. Reflect on how collaboration changed or enhanced her creative practice.

View Anita's website: http://www.anitalarkin.com/



View Anita's past and present works.
Compare and contrast her past and current work. What changes can you see?

Anita Larkin, The breath between us, 2014 collected objects, leather and felted wool. 72 h x 293 w x 35 d cm. Photographer: Lou Farina,

Web links for artists websites

Artist's websites:

http://www.alanacliftoncunningham.com/

http://www.sandyelverd.com.au/

http://www.louisaennisthomas.com/

http://pennyevansart.com.au/

http://www.zoran.com.au/erk/

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http://www.anitalarkin.com/

http://www.gillianlavery.com/

http://www.makeshiftconcepts.com/

www.lornamurray.com.au

www.jemimaparker.com

http://www.patrickwsnelling.com/

www.ilkawhite.com.au

Web links for further reading

Group Exchange: 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial Blog:

http://2ndtamworthtextiletriennial.com/

(blog contains artist information, posts of works as they developed for the exhibition, touring dates and public program events)

Tamworth Regional Gallery's website:

http://www.tamworthregionalgallery.com.au/

Touring venues websites: (listed in order of tour schedule)

http://www.gosfordregionalgallery.com/

http://art.uts.edu.au/index.php/about/uts-gallery/

http://www.townhallgallery.com.au/

http://www.pprag.org/

http://www.wpccdubbo.org.au/

http://www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au/

http://www.craftact.org.au/

http://www.wollongongartgallery.com

http://www.glasshouse.org.au/





Group Exchange: 2nd Tamworth Textile Triennial at Tamworth Regional Gallery, Image Lou Farina









