

## Somerset Art Works present 'Z-Twist', a new textile project for 2014!

Z-Twist is a new and exciting programme for Somerset Art Works (SAW) and in 2014 the project will bring together artists, designers, textile producers, educators, curators and archivists to raise the profile of high quality textiles in Somerset and the south west - past, present and future.

Named Z-Twist due to the process undertaken with yarn to strengthen it before the creation of weaving and making fabrics, the project will place 3 contemporary designer/makers in the traditional textile industry and education settings over a period of 3 months to enable them to develop a new body of work with support from textile manufacturers, local heritage collections, Somerset College and Stroud International Textiles (SIT).

The project will be led by SAW's Z Twist Coordinator, Patricia Dixon who brings a wealth of experience in both the art and learning industry. After a national recruitment process SAW are delighted to announce that the selected artists who will work on the project are;

- **Lucy Lean** [www.lucyleanart.com](http://www.lucyleanart.com)
- **Penny Wheeler** <http://seamcollective.wordpress.com/about/>
- **Debbie Smyth** <http://debbie-smyth.com>

The Z-Twist artists will work with students from Somerset College who are studying Fashion, Textiles & Surface Design degree courses as well as other educational groups in the county to emphasise the potential learning and career routes for these students by strengthening links between arts and heritage organisations, schools and colleges and textile industry partners.

SAW has partnered up with textile manufacturing partners Fox Brothers & Co ([www.foxflannel.com](http://www.foxflannel.com)), John Boyd Textiles ([www.johnboydtextiles.co.uk](http://www.johnboydtextiles.co.uk)), Stroud International Textiles ([www.stroudinternationaltextiles.org.uk](http://www.stroudinternationaltextiles.org.uk)), Somerset College ([www.somerset.ac.uk](http://www.somerset.ac.uk)) and Somerset Heritage Service ([www.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.somerset.gov.uk)) to assist the three artists to work towards two exhibitions in 2014;

- **The Z –Twist exhibition** and symposium at **Somerset College** as part of the 'MAKE, CREATE, CULTIVATE' two year programme in July.
- **Stroud International Textile Festival** in April 2014.

For more information about the Z Twist education programme please contact: Patricia Dixon, Z Twist Coordinator for SAW: [patricia.dixon@me.com](mailto:patricia.dixon@me.com) or visit [www.somersetartworks.org.uk](http://www.somersetartworks.org.uk).



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For press enquiries interviews and images please contact SAW's Marketing Assistant Chloe Skinner [admin@somersetartworks.org.uk](mailto:admin@somersetartworks.org.uk) .

Somerset Art Works, The Old Town Hall, Bow Street, Langport, Somerset, TA10 9PR.Tel: 01458 253800, [www.somersetartworks.org.uk](http://www.somersetartworks.org.uk), [info@somersetartworks.org.uk](mailto:info@somersetartworks.org.uk).

Notes to Editors:

Somerset Art Works (SAW Ltd is a non-profit organisation that promotes the visual arts and creates opportunities for visual artists and makers in Somerset through advocacy, promotion and development. [www.somersetartworks.org.uk](http://www.somersetartworks.org.uk)