

PRESS RELEASE – for immediate use - 02 September 2011

STROUD INTERNATIONAL TEXTILES ANNOUNCES EXCITING NEW PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

Following this year's annual festival Stroud International Textiles (SIT) has been undertaking a review of its future programming model and artistic ambitions. As a result of this work SIT plans to make a significant shift from its historic annual festival model towards a more compact, but higher impact, suite of public-facing exhibitions and events.(subject to successful funding). The new programming is designed to continue to highlight SIT's reputation for excellence while offering a more collaborative approach by working with a range of national and international artists to bring fresh thinking and innovation.

From May 2012 SIT will be launching a new exhibition programme that includes an additional autumn exhibition and related year round events. We remain committed to the highest quality work; and will do this through a diverse programme of exhibitions and projects that will also encompass other points in the year, and in locations beyond Stroud.

While continuing to focus on textiles we will be supporting other art and craft forms in our work.

Current plans include exhibitions and events with a number of internationally respected artists/makers including **Alice Kettle, Ptolemy Mann, Helen Storey, Pamela Rawnsley, Hillu Liebelt** to name a few of the inspiring artist/makers SIT will be in working in collaboration on future events.

Other plans include links to manufacturing and industry to extend our futures programme.

The changes are designed to further raise SIT's reputation for excellence and innovation, build on our audience base nationally and internationally, and to challenge convention while presenting the applied arts.

SIT is currently undertaking a period of significant organisational development, alongside the programme developments outlined above.

- . A key part of this organisational development work is updating SIT's governance model and paving the way for Charity Status, which SIT hopes to achieve later this year.
- As part of this process, SIT is delighted to announce the appointment of two new Directors **Jennifer Glastonbury and Jen Goldsworthy**. Both bring a passion and a raft of experience to the organisation.
- We are also delighted to announce new patrons to support SIT. They are **Lulu Guinness OBE;** tapestry artist **Jilly Edwards** and **Mary La Trobe Bateman OBE**.

We hope to announce more patrons as we receive confirmation and SIT will be embarking on a formal recruitment process for Charity Trustees.

- SIT has a strong new Board who are supporting our development and re-launch.

MAIN PROGRAMME CHANGES

- Replacing the annual festival will be two major exhibitions a year with linked Symposiums.
- SIT will continue to work with the Museum in the Park, Stroud and will be opening there in spring 2012 with 'Pairings' in collaboration with international artist/maker **Alice Kettle** (co-curating) and a linked Symposium plus individual talks.

- Autumn 2012 we will be exhibiting new work by weaver, textile designer and colourist, **Ptolemy Mann**, at Gloucester Cathedral. There will also be linked Symposium exploring colour, architecture and textiles
- 2012 will see SIT taking exhibitions to other venues both in and outside Gloucestershire and building exciting new partnerships
- SIT is planning to build on our reputation for delivering opportunities for learning and each exhibition will be accompanied with a major Symposium where debate and high quality speakers will participate
- Links with schools, universities and colleges will continue to be developed
- Alongside the spring exhibitions there will be selected artist led satellite events and the popular **Textile Trail** open studios will continue with an improved, higher profile brochure and marketing
- Stronger use of the internet and online presentation to be developed
- Starting in autumn 2011 will be a series of study days and talks. Tapestry artist, **Jilly Edwards** will run a one day study day on Saturday October 1st
- To support the Museum in the Park's exhibition of work by contemporary jeweller Nora Fok in March 2012 SIT is bringing leading jeweller and silversmith, **Pamela Rawnsley** to speak about her work.

Stroud International Textiles Artistic Director & Chief Executive Lizzi Walton.

"We are enormously excited by these plans, which will enhance our reputation for excellence and high quality programming and we hope, will build our audience for the visual and applied arts while enabling us to work with new and inspiring partners"

" I am honoured to be a patron of SIT and have great admiration for the work they do" Lulu Guinness OBE

Note to Editors.

- SIT has over 22,000 visitors who come to our events every year.
- Visitors come from all over UK as well as local and regional. (62% from outside County 2011)
- SIT supports the local economy by bringing visitors to the area who stay over
- SIT displays and promotes the work of over 180 artists and makers every year
- SIT addresses a significant gap in the regions artistic provision

For further information contact Lizzi Walton on 01453 751056 / info@stroudsit.org
www.stroudinternationaltextiles.org.uk

ENDS

