

Tapestry Interest Group Meeting – 14 December 2019

This was our last meeting of the year with a small group of us.

The first item we discussed as a matter of urgency was what the Tapestry Interest Group would contribute to London Craft Week's themed 'Fiber to Fleece' Guild exhibition and demonstrations in April 2020. After much discussion of our options and timescales given tapestry is a slower process compared to fabric weaving, we agreed to work on ideas using images from Southwark Cathedral. Juliette Syme agreed to take some photographs and circulate to the group.

As a group we would do one large tapestry demonstration using hand spun and dyed fleece from the spinners and Juliette to work on the cartoon. In addition to this we would also have four small tapestries set up with different warp setts and using plastics, paper, vegetable fibers and animal yarns as wefts that visitors could 'have ago' trying their hand at weaving.

On the exhibition side we are no longer doing our collective group of small 15cm x 15cm tapestries on the theme of 'Shadows and Reflections' as originally planned, freeing up time for us as individuals to submit a tapestry for the Guild Exhibition if we wish.

Aruna brought samples of eccentric weaving based on work by Sylvia Heyden and Juliette brought her work in progress on a small frame. Aruna also showed samples of weavings she did in Turkey on a theme of 'Stone and Water'



Several of us went to exhibitions around London and Manchester. Continuing the Bauhaus centenary, the William Morris Gallery has 'Pioneers -William Morris and the Bauhaus' until 26 January 2020. We all thought the Karun Thakar collection of African Textiles from North and West Africa at the Brunei Gallery was excellent with the Indigo Room as it's highlight. The Tapestries at the Whitworth in Manchester was interesting but very small and a missed opportunity by the Museum.

Aruna fed back on The British Tapestry Group's AGM at the Dovecot Studios in Edinburgh together with a tour of the weaving studio and the May Morris exhibition which was at the William Morris gallery last year.

A short discussion followed about how this group is to proceed going forward soliciting ideas for the year ahead.

Aruna Reddy