



Katherine Hooker teams with Pendleton Woolen Mills

British women's designer Katherine Hooker has joined forces with globally celebrated American lifestyle brand, Pendleton Woolen Mills, for a collaboration on two jacket styles, bringing together classic British style and tailoring with the timelessness of America's iconic Pendleton wool.

This is Katherine Hooker's first-ever collaboration to design an exclusive fabric, also marking a return to Pendleton's British roots. The company's original founder, Thomas Kay, started out as a Yorkshire bobbin boy, before he made his way to the then-new state of Oregon in 1863 and staked his knowledge and integrity on the success of his mill. He turned out the first bolt of worsted wool west of the Mississippi and was soon known for the quality of his woolen textiles. He passed the tradition to his daughter and, six generations later, Pendleton remains a family business, with Thomas' great-great-grandsons in charge of the brand and its mills today.

Following a visit to Oregon to meet with the Pendleton weaving craftsmen, Hooker worked with Pendleton to develop this unique horizontal stripe in tones of taupe, biscuit, denim blue and stone, which she has used in two of her signature jacket shapes - the Patmos and the Hendre jackets.

"Growing up, we spent our holidays with my grandparents in Maine, where I first learned about Pendleton Mills. Everyone had a Pendleton shirt or jacket and I always associated it with my grandparents and their stories, camping, the great outdoors," says Hooker.

The Patmos jacket has stand collar and a double row of buttons, while the Hendre jacket has an oversized button-down collar, flattering angled jet pockets and suede tabs on the sleeves. Both are designed with a drop-tail hem for extra coverage, with comfort and warmth in mind, and the stripe has been precisely designed to fit the length of the jackets exactly, with no repeat of the pattern.

"I have always identified Pendleton fabric with Native America, warmth, beauty, practicality and a subtle kind of pride," Hooker said. "My fascination with the cloth was their history of weaving striped horse blankets for the Native Americans. Rather like Scottish Tartan, each stripe had a story, an identity, often taking on great value and used for trading. Like the tweeds of the British Isles, I love how the heritage of Pendleton has stood the test of time."

"Pendleton Woolen Mills' fabric expertise delivers the premium fabric required by Katherine Hooker," said Mary Richter, Pendleton's chief creative officer. "Both companies share mutual values; quality, craftsmanship and authenticity."

The jackets will be available in the Ready-To-Wear collection and priced at £840 from the end of August at Katherine Hooker's London shop (19 Ashburnham Rd, London SW10 0GH), and at www.katherinehooker.com.

"Ever since my great, great grandfather Thomas Lister Kay left Yorkshire in 1859 on his way to establishing a woolen mill in Oregon, Pendleton has been part of the tradition of fine woolens rooted in the U.K.," said John Bishop, Pendleton board chairman. "Working with Katherine Hooker feels like coming home."

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
SHEPPARD PUBLIC RELATIONS
ANNABELLE SHEPPARD AT SHEPPARD PR
T: +44 (0) 207 836 9436
E: ANNABELLE@SHEPPARDPR.CO.UK

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