

Colleen Plank Textile Artist Bio



born Auckland, New Zealand

since 1987 lived in Nelson, New Zealand

At Two clutched onto my mother's Donegal hand woven skirt

At Four learnt to pick up dropped stitches

At Nine collected sheep wool from farm wire fences

At Seventeen first ran my hands across my first loom

At Twenty Four found myself making carpets inside a Tibetan Refugee Camp

At Thirty completed Diploma in Hand woven textiles...

... the beginning of a studio, workshops, tutoring, exhibiting. An infinite journey of discovery by creating, conversing and conceptualising using fibre and textiles.

Often my textile work is in response to observations and emotions that leave a lasting impression, either influenced by surrounding landscapes or of human relationships.

For nineteen years held the position as specialist Textile Tutor and Arts Technician, in the Arts and Media Department at the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology, sharing knowledge and experiences to inspire and encourage students to embrace the traditional textile practices that have gone before and to take opportunities to extend and place their ideas onto a contemporary platform.

Highlights

- Diploma of Handwoven Textile (distinction)
- Certificate in Adult Teaching,

- Textile & Arts Technician at Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology 2000-2018
- Contracted Specialist Textile Tutor at Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology
- 2009 Changing Threads Supreme Award Contemporary Textile and Fibre Award
- 2016 - 2023 Initiated and Coordinated NZ Textile Experiences

2023

Exhibitions

- *Milestones* – Changing Threads – National Contemporary Fibre Art Awards, Refinery Art Space, Nelson

Tutoring

- NZ Textile Experiences, Contemporary Feltmaking, Eco Dyeing Fibres and Fabrics with Plants
- Taranaki Textile Craft Tour – Nelson
- Adventure in Art, Pūtangitangi Green Meadows, Stoke, Nelson

2022

Exhibitions

- *Cast ◦ Emerge ◦ Self* – Changing Threads – National Contemporary Fibre Art Awards, Refinery Artspace, Nelson
- Wanaka Art Show – Invited exhibitor

Workshop Tutor

- NZ Textile Experiences, Contemporary Feltmaking, Eco Dyeing Fibres and Fabrics with Plants.
- Pacific Patterns - Australian touring textile group
- MLC Sydney, Australian Textile Tour

2021

Exhibitions

- *Overlap* – NZ Textile Experiences three tutors shared exhibition, Heaphy Vineyards, Upper Moutere, Tasman

2019

Exhibitions – Curated

- *Unshackled* – Changing Threads Contemporary Fibre Awards, Refinery Artspace, Nelson

2018

Exhibitions - Curated

- *INSPIRIT - Changing Threads Contemporary Fibre Awards, Refinery Artspace, Nelson*
- *Thoughts & Insights – 11th International Shibori Symposium, Japan exhibiting alongside 30 internationally selected textile and fibre artists*

Workshop Tutor

- Embroidery Conference 2018 - 3 Day workshop - Dye, Felt, Small metal workshop, 'Expand your Horizon" Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology

2017

Exhibitions

- *Inspirt – Field of Study – NMIT Arts & Media staff exhibition Refinery Artspace, Nelson*
- *Inspirt II - Academy of Fine Arts - Spring Exhibition, Wellington*

Workshop Tutor

- NZ Textile Experiences, Felt making workshop, Nelson

2016

Exhibitions - Curated:

- *Hold Me I & II (2016). 10th International Shibori Symposium, Oaxaca, Mexico. Land, Culture, People – **International Juried Exhibition***
- *PUKA – Meryta sinclarii - A Sub Tropical Paradise - Changing Threads, Refinery Gallery, Nelson*

Workshop Tutor

- NZ Textile Experiences Eco Dyeing Workshop, Fairholme Gallery, Golden Bay, New Zealand

2015

Exhibitions - Curated:

- *To Be...* Changing Threads Exhibition, Refinery Art Space, Nelson, New Zealand. Curated by Ronnie Martin, Lloyd Harwood
- *Get A Grip, To Be..* (2 textile works) UK Knitting and Stitching Show, Alexandra Palace, London UK Dublin, Ireland and Harrogate, UK, Curator Alys Midgelow-Marsden.

Exhibitions – Non-curated:

- *Lightscape*, Tasman School Art Auction, Tasman School, Tasman, New Zealand

- *The Boulder Dress*, Hot Planet Fashion Show, Boathouse, Nelson, New Zealand

Workshop Tutor:

- Contemporary Textile Techniques – ACE tutor NMIT, Nelson, NZ

2014

Exhibition - Curated

- Get a grip [textiles]. Changing Threads National Contemporary Fibre Art Awards: Art Textiles Exhibition. Nelson, New Zealand.
- Woolshed blues [textiles]. Synergy -Shibori Down Under, World Shibori Network Belconnen Arts Centre, Canberra, Australia.

Exhibitions – non Curated:

- Day after day after... & Get a grip [textiles]. WOMen's WORk Exhibition, Fairholme Gallery, Golden Bay, New Zealand.
- Golden future [oil on canvas exhibition]. Yealands Estate Gallery, Marlborough, New Zealand.
- Unveiling the Haven III [textiles]. Keep it clean and green New Zealand exhibition, Inspirit Gallery, Waikato, New Zealand.

Workshop Tutor

- Mahoe Farm, Nelson introductory workshops in Eco Plant Dyeing and Felting

2013

Exhibition – Curated:

- *Current climate [Art Textile]*. Changing Threads National Contemporary Fibre Art Awards: Art Textiles Exhibition. Nelson, New Zealand.
- *Get a grip [Art Textiles]*. By My Hand, New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts, Wellington, New Zealand.
- *Wool shed blues [Art Textiles]*. Second Life, Bowen House Gallery & New Zealand Parliament, Wellington, New Zealand.

Workshop Instructor:

- Eco Dyeing Workshop, Tiapapata Art Centre, Apia, Samoa.

2012

Exhibitions - Curated:

- *Art informs Shibori* - 8th International Shibori Symposium, Hong Kong Design Institute, Hong Kong – **International Juried Exhibition**

In the Beginning, Day after Day, Changing Threads National Contemporary Fibre Art Awards: Art Textiles Exhibition. Nelson, New Zealand.

- *Spinning a Yarn*, invited NZ artists to exhibit in a mixed media exhibition Inspirit Gallery, Waikato
- *Fleece to Fibre*, Opotiki
- SLICK, collaborative exhibition, NMIT g space gallery

Workshops Attended:

- NZ Costume & Textile Section
- Digital Textiles Symposium AUT

Prior Exhibitions

- 2011 ***Pattern's Rhythms, Wraps*** Fibre Spectrum, solo exhibition -
Extending the Boundaries, g_space, NMIT
- 2010 ***Changing Threads***, Refinery Gallery, Nelson
Sicksix[sic], Fishbowl Gallery, NMIT, Nelson
- 2009 ***Changing Threads*** , Refinery Gallery, Nelson – award recipient
24 Above, NMIT Arts & Media Staff Exhibition, Fishbowl Gallery Nelson
Go-Figure – Drawn from Life, Drawings by 40 Nelson Artists, Refinery Gallery, Nelson
Eco Colour Odyssey Exhibition, Fibre Spectrum, Nelson
- 2008 ***Wearable Expressions***, Beckstrand and Norris Galleries, Palos Verdes Art Centre, C.A. U.S.A. international juried
Nouveau Design Awards, Spring Grove Drill Hall, Wakefield, Nelson
Fibre & Fleece, Opotiki De Luxe Theatre, Opotiki
- 2007 ***Fiddlesticks***, Creative Fibre, Suter Gallery Nelson – Award recipient
Nouveau Design Awards, Richmond Race Course, Nelson-Award
- Before
- 2006 ***Consequences of Proximity***, Ararat Gallery, Victoria, Australia
Hundreds of Tiny Things, Suter Gallery, Nelson
60 years of Craft in NZ Academy of Fine Arts, Wellington , Invited –
Miniature Textiles, Compendium Galley, Devonport

Presentations

- 2009 *Expressing your Ideas through Felt*, 8th Southern Hemisphere Felting Convergence, Masterton, NZ

Publications (several since 2010 - not uploaded)

<http://nz-artists.co.nz/artists/hellyar/>

- 2010 *Threading her way through Textile Design*, Nelson Mail, Lifestyle feature,
2009 NMIT Press Release – Textile Art Award Benefits NMIT Students
 NCC, Fibre art captures spirit of region, Changing Threads
 Mudcakes and Roses, Nelson Tasman Senior Action publication
2007 Costume Design in NZ, Colleen Plank & Lindy Roberts discuss, Textile Fibre Forum No. 85, Australia
2006 Consequences of Proximity, Textile Fibre Forum No. 83, Australia

Workshops

- 2010 Felted Accessories, Adult Community Education, Nayland College
2008 Jewellery Felted, Hira Community Creative Workshops
2007 Make your Colour Work – Creative Fibre Retreat, Lake Rotoiti
2006 & 2005 Winter Art Workshops, Blenheim Community Arts

Judge

- 2009 Nelson Mask Parade, Nelson
2008 RAW Awards, Mahi Toi, Garin College, Nelson
2007 Stage Challenge, Theatre Royal, Nelson & Tasman Schools

Workshops & Symposiums Attended:

Francoise Hoffman – Private workshop in France 2018
NZ Costume & Textile Section 2008 & 2012
Yoshiko Wada-Japanese/American Textile Academic

Digital Textiles Symposium AUT 2010 & 2012

India Flint – Australian Eco Dye & Print Specialist

Jorie Johnson –USA/Japanese Residence Felt maker

Michael Brennan Wood- UK Embroiderer- Master Class - Consequences of Proximity

Inga Evers – Swedish International Felt maker

Practicing Textile Artist working under the name of **WRAPTURE**

2016 Launched [***NZ Textile Experiences***](#) offering a variety of textile and fibre workshops at tutors own studios and creative environments in around Nelson and Tasman.

www.nztextileexperiences.com

[nztextileexperiences facebook](#)

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