

# View from the edge

edge – textile artists Scotland is celebrating the group's past, present and future with a major exhibition in Edinburgh

edge – textile artists Scotland has been dedicated to promoting excellence in contemporary art since its formation in 1999, when three textile art groups from Edinburgh, Dundee and Glasgow joined forces, before expanding to incorporate artists from across Scotland.

This month a collection of work by its members goes on show at Edinburgh Palette (an independent, creative arts hub in the city) occupying all three galleries on the third floor. The exhibition, entitled 'Strands of Time' provides a starting point for examining the whole story of 'edge' – with three galleries, three points in time (past, present, future) and curated by three teams from within the group.

The past is the domain of Alison King. Alison was the first chairperson of the amalgamated group and she has had the unenviable task of curating the best examples of work from the group's previous exhibitions. Alison, along with another life-long member, Rosemary Campbell, has selected work that best demonstrates where the group has come from. Their selection is on show in gallery one and offers the chance to reflect on the group's development since the millennium.

Here you will find, for example, work by Hannah Frew Paterson which, says Alison, reveals, 'all of Paterson's feel for changing surfaces. Subtly she moves our eye across the water and the sand to the small stones trapped in the web of stitched and textured seaweed'. Then there's Sarah Sumsion's 'exquisite woven layers of colour wafting down before your eyes, allowing glimpses into space beyond'. Anne Keith's *Lycian Spirit* 'shows just how well the human form can be used in contemporary embroidery', whilst Alison describes Rosemary Campbell's piece, *Kyrstanne* as 'a work of contradictions, with the ghost-like form of the old ship burnt through to reveal all the richness and mystery of the seashore'.

This gallery will also host two smaller inner-spaces: the first will present the story of the group through the tenures of its seven chairpersons and the other will showcase a sound and light show created by Sophia Burns and based on 'edge'.

Gallery two presents current work, as curated by two members – Jennifer Hamshere and Wilma Graham. They have chosen to exhibit a range of diverse and original work produced within the group, and to challenge the perceptions that persist around textiles and embroidery. There are works by original members hanging alongside pieces by newer artists, who've been actively engaged in supporting one

another. You will find examples such as Betty Fraser Myerscough's screenprints and machine embroidery pieces hanging beside Betty Russell's *February Fields*, whilst Jennifer Hamshere's *Three Crows*, each has its own plinth (including the one who 'wisnae there at'a') in the centre of the room.

Gallery three has been designated to reveal edge's intriguing future. Curated by Kim Gunn and Ali Ferguson, their vision is for an exciting, inspirational space highlighting not only how members are moving forward but how the group is open to work from people interested in joining its ranks. 'We want to share with the public the exploration and experimentation that takes place during the design process

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and illustrate how this process can be achieved.' explains Eileen Campbell, the current chair of edge. 'Creative activity is, in essence, a solitary business, so this will be a rare chance to see how it is done.'

'Also, we are pleased to be able to showcase students' work from colleges all over Scotland. In summary, by producing the grand venture that is Strands of Time, I personally hope that the members of the group continue to find ways of mutually supporting each other in creative endeavours and continue to contribute to the wider artistic community around Scotland. I also hope that you continue to support the group by visiting our exhibitions and finding inspiration from what we produce.'

'Working with textile media is a seductive and therapeutic experience. We should enjoy it and take every opportunity to communicate that joy to others. Hopefully, Strands of Time will prove this is true.'

Strands of Time is on show at Edinburgh Palette from 2-23 July

[www.edge-textileartists-scotland.com](http://www.edge-textileartists-scotland.com)  
[www.edinburghpalette.co.uk](http://www.edinburghpalette.co.uk)



## edge the past

Above left: Anne Keith, *Lycian Spirit* (detail) 2008. Paper, gesso, rabbit skin glue, egg tempura, silver leaf. 490 x 1413cm

Above, right: Susan Fraser, *Contemplation*, 2007. Felted wool, silk tops, thread, fabrics, beads, feathers. 100 x 110cm

## edge the present

Left: Betty Fraser Myerscough, *Little Green Apples*, (detail), 2014. Calico and silk. Screenprint, embroidery. 73 x 89cm

## edge the future

Below: Snapshots of work in progress – *Legacy II* by Liza Green, and *Starting Points* by Rosemary Campbell

