

PRESS RELEASE

26 October 2016

Digital Loom and Weaving Futures
at London Transport Museum
22 November 2016 to 18 February 2017



The ancient art of weaving goes digital at London Transport Museum from 22 November. Visitors to the Museum will be able to see weavers in action, as they interpret the work of artists and designers into digital woven textile prototypes on a state-of-the-art digital jacquard loom.

Between November 2016 and February 2017, London Transport Museum will be highlighting the importance and potential of woven textiles to the London Transport system, through a programme called ***Weaving Futures***, curated by design industry experts Philippa Brock and Samuel Plant Dempsey

Resident artists and designers have been invited to respond to a brief; exploring the role of textiles in modern transport now and in the future. They will focus on 'untapped' sources of data generated by, or helpful to, the transport system. Their responses will then be interpreted into woven textiles, live for museum visitors.

Creative responses will span from future speculations on data capture and its textile use, to new methods of digitising human interactions, to creative interpretations and visualisations of existing TfL data sets. Artistic approaches will include drawing, photography, film, sound, mark-making and model making. ***Designology Studio*** residents include:

- **Wallace Sewell;** designers of contemporary Moquette seating fabric for Transport for London – 22 and 26 November
- **Assemble;** Turner Prize winning collective of artists, architects and designers – 06 and 08 December
- **Camira;** producers of London’s best known urban fabrics, including a million meters of Moquette a year – 09 and 10 December
- **Gainsborough Weaving;** a company with 100 years of successive weaving experience – 13 and 14 December
- **Research collaboration with Brock, Dempsey and Veja;** combined experts in woven jacquard and haptics, industrial product design and woven e-textiles, wearable technology and smart textiles - 25, 26 and 30 January
- **BeatWoven;** avant-garde designers who use song and sound to create their textile designs – 9 and 10 February

Other designers include – Eleanor Pritchard, Ismini Samanidou, Linda Florence, Josephine Ortega, Rare Threads, Studio Houndstooth, Takram and Textile design degree students from Central Saint Martins, University of The Arts London.

The Weaving Futures Data and Transport brief given to artists explores the significance of Jacquard loom weaving beyond textiles, looking at how the Jacquard loom punch card system led to the development of computers and digital data, and how these have affected transport systems as a whole.

The season will also bring to the fore London’s most loved urban fabric - moquette. Many people who have travelled on the London transport network will be familiar with the patterned seating fabric on Tube trains, buses, DLR, the London Overground and Croydon Tramlink, but they may not know of its rich history as integral to the design of the capital’s public transport since the 1920s. Derived from the French word for carpet, moquette is a type of woven pile fabric, in which cut or uncut threads form a short dense cut or loop pile. As well as giving it a distinctive velvet-like feel, the pile construction is particularly durable, and ideally suited to applications such as public transport.

Digital Weaving Norway has sponsored the installation of a TC2 Digital jacquard loom for the duration of the exhibition. The programme is also supported by Camira and The Worshipful Company of Weavers and Pointcarre.

Weaving Futures events will take place every week in the Museum’s pop-up Designology Studio from 22 November until 18 February. All day-time events are drop-in and free to attend with the annual London Transport Museum admission ticket. There is also a Late Debate on the evening of 26 January 2017.

The Designology studio and Late Debate series of events, including Weaving Futures, are part of London Transport Museum and Transport for London’s Transported by Design season which is supported by Exterior Media. The 18 month programme of events and exhibitions explores good design on the transport network and its role in the lives of the

millions of customers who use it each day. For more information on the season and its events, visit www.ltmuseum.co.uk/whats-on/transported-by-design.

#designology

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For media requests, interviews and images please contact:

London Transport Museum	
Wendy Neville – Head of Marketing and Communications Phone 020 7565 7266 Email wendy.neville@ltmuseum.co.uk	www.ltmuseum.co.uk Follow us on Twitter and Facebook at: https://twitter.com/ltmuseum https://www.facebook.com/ltmuseum
Candice Jones – PR and Marketing Manager Phone 020 7565 7448 Email candice.jones@ltmuseum.co.uk	
Ruiz Alexander – Marketing Assistant Phone 020 7565 7423 Email ruiz.alexander@ltmuseum.co.uk	

Notes to editors

Highlights of The Project Brief

To explore the role of textiles in modern transport now, and potentially for the future focusing on ‘untapped’ sources of data generated by or helpful to the transport system. Responses for this project can be anything from future speculations on data capture and its textile use, varied approaches to visual interpretations of existing TfL data sets - through to new methods of digitising human interactions, or creating your own data from the transport system and visualising it. This can be manifest through approaches including drawing, photography, film, sound, mark-making and model making. **Potential Inspiration and Approaches:**

- **Visual:** using existing data from TfL finding ways of visualising it or creating your own ‘data’ i.e. from travelling around, going on a dérive, photographing/documenting what people are wearing.....your own observations or exploring aspects of travel in London, secret spaces, ghosts...soundscapes etc
- **Structural:** engineering /future vehicle design/space management/seating/standing
- **Interactive:** Ticketing, tracking, material investigation, non verbal communications, haptics **Societal/wellbeing:** tackling transport issues i.e comfort/disability/passenger flow/ passenger experience/community engagement/the use of weave as discourse.

Woven jacquard introduction

The possibilities of digital woven textiles can include:

- photographic/abstract representations,
- 3D
- texture
- layers
- text/ text & image

About the curators

- **Philippa Brock** is a digital jacquard woven textile researcher, designer and artist, who explores innovative, self-folding, deployable 3D jacquard textiles which explore unusual combinations of design, weave structure and yarn engineering. She also works with international textile companies including colour and materials forecasting, exhibits her textile work globally, and was part of the Nobel Textiles Project, interpreting science concepts into 3D digital woven jacquard outcomes.

She recently was an exhibitor and co-curator of Real Dirty Blue at the Lethaby Gallery London. She runs the weave department at Central Saint Martins, University of The Arts London, part time - is a lead researcher in the Textiles Futures Research Centre, and is editor of The Weave Shed, a resource website and blog for professional weavers.

Studio Houndstooth is a joint venture Philippa runs with Jo Pierce, co - investigating, interrogating and instigating innovative material and textile making and design processes and ludic methods, designing workshops, future materials & craft artefacts and outcomes.

- **Samuel Plant Dempsey** is a Product Designer at Transport for London (TfL) designing more effective solutions for transport in London across all modes, from walking to trains. Collaborating with experts, from electrical engineers to textile weavers to create innovative designs through rigorous research that are both highly effective and aesthetically engaging. Currently he is working extensively on improving both the ambience of underground train interiors and usability for passengers with reduced mobility and vision. Previously he studied at the RCA exploring how design can provoke critical public engagement through the creation of products as actors, translating estrangement techniques from Epic Theatre into both critical and pragmatic design solutions. Sam previously worked for Nokia and Microsoft as a 3D Printing Specialist and Industrial Designer.

About digital Jacquard Weaving & Moquette fabric

Jacquard weaving involves creating figured or abstract imagery woven in to the fabric of the cloth. This can be monochrome through to complex colouring, flat surface through to texture and 3D. The state of the art TC2 digital jacquard loom has been provided by Tronrud Engineering.

About the sponsors and supporters

- **Camira** is an independent UK based company which designs and manufactures contract performance fabrics for transport and commercial interiors. The company was founded in 1974 as Camborne Fabrics in Huddersfield, which spent nine years as part of the US Interface organisation before completing a successful management buy-out 10 years ago. They got involved in transport fabrics through a couple of acquisitions, firstly British Furtex Fabrics in 2003, then John Holdsworth & Co in 2007. The relations between the Holdsworth brand and TfL go back decades, as Holdsworth was originally founded in 1822 and got involved in moquette rail fabrics at a very early stage. Camira is described as a young company with a very rich heritage. They have over 500,000 sq. feet of UK manufacturing, 75,000 sq. feet in Lithuania, and control the bulk of their supply chain and manufacturing processes, from yarn dyeing, through warping, weaving and textile finishing. They have in-house design, colour and technical specialists, who can exploit their diverse weaving capabilities to create different fabric constructions and design styles. Camira make 8 million

metres of fabric a year, including a million metres for transport applications, and sell to 70 countries around the world. They hold the Queen's Awards for International Trade and Sustainable Development.

- **The Worshipful Company of Weavers:** is a historic, textile-related, charitable and sociable organisation, the Company is well set to continue in fine style into the twenty first century and beyond. It is still a Guild steeped in tradition, but is fulfilling its role today in a thoroughly modern and practical way. Many of its members are young and enthusiastic and keen to promote the work of the Company. Although it no longer controls "the art and mystery of weaving", it makes a contribution to textile education through a variety of awards, scholarships and bursaries; nearly a third of the membership is involved in the textile industry. No longer is the Company's charity required for its needy members, but it is widely distributed through its Benevolent Fund and through its Almshouse Charities, which at Weavers' House in Wanstead offer comfortable, sheltered homes for the elderly. The Company plays its part in the City government in the ancient ceremonial of elections in Guildhall, and in City hospitality and fellowship, especially when the full splendour of the Church, the City and the Livery Companies comes together each year for the United Guilds' Service.
- **Pointcarré:** for 30 years Pointcarré Textile Software has provided a complete package for Printing, Knitting and Weaving aimed at Fashion, Home Furnishing and Technical Industry. All the modules are integrated in a single application, then all information is saved in one file only (colours, yarns, weaves, colourways, harness tie etc.). Pointcarré continually provides designers with all the digital tools necessary to design a product keeping in mind both the history of the production process as well as the current advances in technology. Flexible and user friendly, Pointcarré is natively compatible Mac and Windows.
- **Scotweave:** The ScotWeave software brand is owned by ScotCad Textiles Limited which is a fully independent limited company registered in Scotland, UK. The Managing Director Dave Kemp has been involved with ScotWeave software since 1983 and is still actively involved in software development. The company's ethos is focused on giving Computer Aided Design back to the designer, to create designs quickly and easily – while utilising all the advantages of modern computing the emphasis is still on the woven design process and not the technical operation of the computer. They pride themselves on their after sales customer care and strive to deal with enquiries as fast as possible. As a result of ongoing software developments, the majority of which are made in response to customer feedback, many clients have been using the ScotWeave software for well over a decade.

About London Transport Museum

- London Transport Museum is situated in the heart of Covent Garden and filled with stunning exhibits; the Museum explores the powerful link between transport and the growth of modern London, culture and society since 1800. Historic vehicles, world-famous posters and the very best objects from the Museum's extraordinary collection are brought together to tell the story of London's development and the part transport played in defining the unique identity of the city.
- The Museum is an educational and heritage preservation charity. Its purpose is to conserve and explain the history of London's transport, to offer people an understanding of the Capital's past development and to engage them in the debate about its future. The Museum's charity number is 1123122.
- Travel to London Transport Museum:
Address: Covent Garden Piazza, WC2E 7BB.
The nearest stations to London Transport Museum are:
 - o Underground: Covent Garden, Leicester Square, Charing Cross, Embankment, Holborn
 - o National Rail: Charing Cross and Waterloo
 - o Boat: Embankment or Westminster pier
 - o Bus: Strand or AldwychPublic information:

Talks & events bookings: +44 (0)20 7565 7298
Switchboard: +44 (0)20 7379 6344 - general information
24 hour information: +44 (0)20 7565 7299
www.ltmuseum.co.uk