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THE TRUTH**





MADGE GILL SANS TITRE EMBROIDERY. PHOTO BY JEAN GENOUD SA. COURTESY COLLECTION DE L'ART BRUT, LAUSANNE

NEWS

Outsider Interest

The outsider artist Madge Gill (1882-1961), one of the exponents of mediumistic art, is the focus of a new exhibition at William Morris Gallery. After a challenging life, Gill was first 'possessed' by Myrminerest when she was 38, and during trances produced an extraordinary number of artworks, primarily drawings in ink on paper and calico. She also went on to make intricate and multicoloured embroidered rugs, hangings and dresses. One of the most comprehensive surveys of Gill's work to date, the show brings together many works that have never been exhibited before.

William Morris Gallery 22 June-22 September
wmgallery.org.uk



Jamie Holman's *Live the Dream* trade union style banner

New British Textile Biennial

Following on from Fabrications, a pilot event that took place in 2017, Lancashire is to stage the first British Textile Biennial this autumn.

Artists, designers and makers are being invited to present performances, artworks, exhibitions and events against the historic backdrop of the cotton industry that sprang to life in Pennine Lancashire.

Amongst the events confirmed so far are Alice Kettle's monumental *Sea, Sky and Land* tapestries at Gawthorpe Hall, and the culmination of Jamie Holman's protest banner commission. Using the collections of the Harris and Preston & Blackburn Museums, Holman has explored the politics of fabric, as well as the acid house music scene, which began in the abandoned warehouses of Lancashire towns almost 30 years ago. A full programme of events will be announced on 8 May.

British Textile Biennial 3 October-3 November
superslowway.org.uk

Why Craft Matters

Useful/Beautiful: Why Craft Matters, the inaugural Harewood Biennial aims to challenge preconceptions and inspire debate about the role craft can play in culture, identity and society. The exhibition brings together 26 individuals, workshops and brands working today to exhibit throughout Harewood House. Amongst the British-based makers working across fashion, textiles, woodwork, glass, ceramics, metalwork, furniture and paper are embroiderer Jenny King, the brands Hiut Denim, Freed of London, Timorous Beasties, Fox Umbrellas, McNair Shirts and weaver Maria Sigma.

Harewood House, Leeds until 1 September
biennial.harewood.org



Barron and Larcher's textile workshop

Forgotten Champions

Ethel Mairet, Phyllis Barron, Dorothy Larcher and Enid Marx are amongst the makers who remain relatively unknown yet were hugely significant to the development of the Arts and Crafts movement. Ditchling Museum of Art+Craft is highlighting the work of these and other craftswomen, who turned their practices into successful businesses between the two World Wars. Often overshadowed by their male counterparts, these female pioneers achieved success by looking to past techniques to create contemporary designs, which would go on to inform future generations of makers.

Women's Work 4 May-13 October
ditchlingmuseumartcraft.org.uk



Jenny King Embroidery