

MEET THE MAKER

Suzy Wright

The landscape surrounding Purbeck has had a big impact on emerging embroiderer Suzy Wright. 'I was brought up in the rural Dorset countryside and by the coast, so my work is always inspired by that.'

Suzy produces colourful portraits in an expressive style, aiming to capture the energy of the natural subject matter to which she is drawn. 'I could always paint and draw and I wanted to express myself in stitch. I love the layers you can achieve with embroidery - and the shadows. You can always add more to stitch; you can never have too much. 'I would call my style chaotic but it always comes together, I always try and make my pieces resemble paintings. I use the same process as a painter. Each piece of work develops in its own way, puckering and distorting. I always step back from my work to see if there needs to be more shading.'

She credits a schoolteacher, Mrs Meredith, for

inspiring her passion for textiles.

So much so that Suzy went on to study Fashion Design at the University of Westminster, before interning and work for Zandra Rhodes and Kaffe Fassett.

Now she sells her work online and in venues in Dorset and, as well as embroidering animals, has a long list of subjects, which she is keen to explore.

'I am still working through vegetables as it's a big project. The carrot piece came from the allotment series. I studied allotments and vegetables making drawings and taking photos. You get such great shapes. I always take a wide range of photos and do a big pile of sketches, looking at every line and bump. And in 2018, I will be stitching cathedrals and cities.'

orangethread.co.uk



PREVIEW

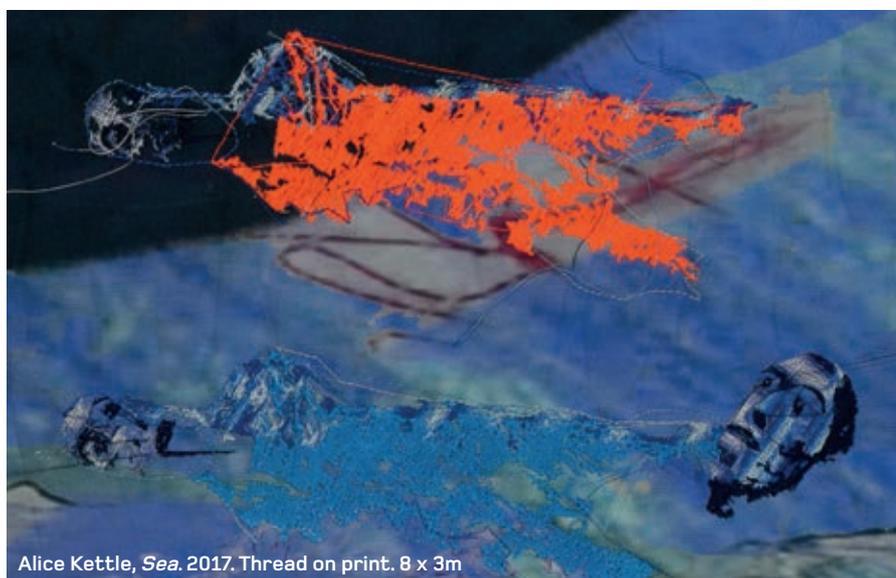
Threads of change

In 2007 Winchester Discovery Centre unveiled a stunning new artwork by Alice Kettle. *Looking Forwards to the Past* is a monumental 16.5m x 3m embroidery permanently sited in the building, the design of which reflected upon both the history and future of the city.

Now Kettle returns to the Discovery Centre with a solo show marking a decade since its unveiling. Kettle is working on a new series of ambitious artworks (for a major survey of the artist's practice taking place in Manchester in 2018) and the first of these textile works, *Sea*, will be shown in 'Alice Kettle: Threads' at the WDC.

In addition Kettle also has another exhibition this month at Candida Stevens Gallery in Chichester from 4-25 November.

Alice Kettle: *Threads* The Gallery, Winchester Discovery Centre, Hampshire until 14 January 2018



Alice Kettle, *Sea*, 2017. Thread on print. 8 x 3m

PHOTO: JOE LOW