



417 Bourke Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010
Open Tuesday to Sunday
11am – 6pm
(Closed Monday)
Tel: +61 2 9361 4511
Free admission

Backgrounder

Biography: Liz Williamson

Liz Williamson is widely regarded as one of Australia's most outstanding and influential crafts practitioners, with a career in textiles spanning over 30 years. A characteristic interest in the construction of cloth remains a theme in recent work, with Williamson continuing to influence, teach and mentor practitioners in the field today.

Born in country Victoria, Liz Williamson first began learning about textiles from her mother, building on these early foundations in textile practice through travel to Asia and Europe, and through formal study in the medium during the 1970s. Establishing a weaving studio in Sydney in 1985, her early work focused on furnishing fabrics for industry, and a range of hand woven wraps and scarves.

Since then Williamson has maintained ongoing studio production, producing her signature wraps and scarves alongside textiles for exhibition. Recent work has extended to into jacquard-woven pieces, combining computer programs and handweaving techniques to create photographic, woven images.

Williamson's work reflects ongoing research into the uses and qualities of cloth, and includes both wearable items and textiles as objects in their own right. Many pieces have explored the notion of 'darning', and the idea of memory recorded on a cloth's surface through wear and repair.

Liz Williamson's weaving techniques remain at the forefront of textile innovation, and have continually developed through research and travel. Her study of weave structures, textile design, and cultural meanings associated with the medium has been undertaken across the United Kingdom, Canada, Europe, and the United States.

Since 2001 Williamson has been involved with several development projects in Asia, working with skilled weavers to revive traditional textile practice and help generate income for weavers and their families.

Design Historian Dr Grace Cochrane has authored a significant monograph to celebrate this practitioner's contribution to Australian craft practice, and accompany the *Liz Williamson: Textiles* exhibition (part of the *Living Treasures: Masters of Australian Craft* series at Object).



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It has been a pleasure to be involved in celebrating the story of Liz Williamson's search to understand textile traditions in relation to her own life and interests, and then interpret those experiences, through her woven cloth, into new ideas and forms. This exhibition and publication provides an opportunity to document and investigate her exemplary career, and acknowledge her influence and contribution to this field, Dr Cochrane said.

Liz Williamson's work is held in numerous Museum and Art Gallery collections within Australia, including the Tamworth Regional Gallery, the National Gallery of Australia and the Powerhouse Museum.

Liz Williamson is currently a senior lecturer in textiles, and Head of the School of Design Studies, at the College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales.

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For all media enquiries, images or interviews contact Laura Brandon on (02) 9361 4555 or email media@object.com.au



Caption (left to right):
Prototype from 'Loop' series, worn
by Liz Williamson, 2007, cotton,
leather. Photo: Ian Hobbs; Grey
Edge (detail), 2008, wool, cotton.
Photo: Ian Hobbs