



Press Release

28 August 2019

## Artist Janet Rawlins returns to her roots in new Leeds exhibition, and makes an appeal for her 'lost works'

Janet Rawlins: Life in the Dales  
13 September -1 November 2019  
Vernon Street Gallery

**Leeds Arts University's latest exhibition celebrates the work of another former student: artist and illustrator, Janet Rawlins.**

Rawlins was born in 1931 in Horsforth, Leeds and studied for a National Diploma in Design (NDD) and the Art Teachers Diploma (ATD) at Leeds College of Art (now Leeds Arts University) from 1947-1952. She draws her inspiration from the Yorkshire Dales where she lives and works, and is known for her Dales landscapes in fabric collage and watercolour.

A prolific artist, her illustrative work includes her instantly recognisable fabric collages for Waddingtons Jigsaw puzzles made during the 1960s and 1970s, as well as several illustrated children's books. Publications include *A Dales Countryside Cookbook* (1992) and *A Grass Rope to Catch a Unicorn: Wensleydale Wild Flowers and Other Illustrations* (2014), and she has produced numerous drawings and cover paintings for the Dalesman magazine

From 1971 to 1982 Rawlins created 39 double sided collages for the Leeds Permanent Building Society, now part of Lloyds Banking group, with a local theme for each branch. Sadly all but the Malvern and Ripon Leeds Permanent Building Society collages are now believed lost. The University and Janet Rawlins are appealing for any information about the missing collages. If you think you can help or would like to know more please contact Rachael Hickson Pearce at [alumni@leeds-art.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@leeds-art.ac.uk) or 0113 202 8142.

The exhibition *Life in the Dales* is a celebration of Janet Rawlins' career, showcasing a selection of her work in the same building she studied in over 60 years ago. The exhibition also provides the opportunity to see work by two recent graduates, Sonia Moran (Leeds Arts University, 2018) and Rosa Hackett (Glasgow School of Art, 2019), who have responded to Rawlins through their soft sculptural practices.

Rachael Hickson Pearce, Alumni Relations and Development Officer said:

*"We are delighted to welcome Janet Rawlins back to Vernon Street, and to bring her work to a new generation of creatives. It is an honour for Leeds Arts University to celebrate such a prolific artist and showcase her work in the place she studied over 60 years ago.*

*It would be wonderful if the publicity could help reunite Janet with her collages from the Leeds Permanent Building Society, and we invite anyone who has any information to get in touch."*

The exhibition has been curated by Rachael Hickson Pearce, Alumni Relations and Development Officer and Caroline Pratt, Senior Lecturer, BA (Hons) Textile Design. The exhibition is open from Friday 13 September – Friday 1 November 2019 at Vernon Street Gallery, Leeds Arts University.

-ENDS-

#### Editor's Notes

For more information, images or to arrange interviews contact: Sophie Miller Wallace, PR & Communications Officer at [sophie.millerwallace@leeds-art.ac.uk](mailto:sophie.millerwallace@leeds-art.ac.uk) or 0113 202 8044 or Rachael Hickson Pearce, Alumni Relations & Development Officer at [rachael.hickson@leeds-art.ac.uk](mailto:rachael.hickson@leeds-art.ac.uk) or 0113 202 8142

#### Janet Rawlins: A Life in the Dales

Friday 13 September – Friday 1 November 2019

Vernon Street Gallery, Leeds Arts University, Vernon Street, LS2 8PH.

#### Opening night: Thursday 12 September 5-7pm

Free entry. Refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome. Booking not required.

*Image: Janet Rawlins at home in Bainbridge. Photograph by Betsy Everett.*

#### Leeds Arts University

Founded in 1846 as the Leeds Government School of Art and Design, Leeds Arts University (formerly Leeds College of Art) has contributed significantly to the development of art education in Britain and across the world. In 2016 the University was granted Taught Degree Awarding Powers, and in 2017 was awarded full university status.

Leeds Arts University has been previously recognised for its industry-standard facilities at the Whatuni awards (winners in 2014, 2016 and 2019) and is in the top five for Design & Crafts in the Guardian University League Table 2020.

The University has recently opened £22m state-of-the-art building expansion at the Blenheim Walk site which includes a 230-seat performance auditorium and industry standard film and photography studios. The building will house the growing portfolio of opportunities for postgraduate study at Leeds Arts University, with a larger specialist arts research and reference library and a new postgraduate study suite.