



Press Release

Date: Monday 7 October 2013

Leeds students create innovative new perspective on Yorkshire's wool heritage

Wool Yorkshire presents a collection of work from Leeds College of Art students and SIL Holdings in association with Harvey Nichols and the Victoria Quarter. The exhibition is part of an initiative being launched to promote the importance and success of the wool textile industry in West Yorkshire to raise awareness of its global reputation and quality.

Students have risen to the challenge by bringing the wool message to life. A group of twenty students from different courses at Leeds College of Art, from fashion, fine art, photography, art & design interdisciplinary, millinery, furniture design, printed textile & surface pattern design courses have taken part in designing and creating wool pieces for the exhibition. The Wool Yorkshire exhibition is on show at the Victoria Quarter, Leeds LS1 6AZ from 14th – 20th October 2013.

Simon Thorpe, Director of Studies, Professional and External Development at Leeds College of Art, said the project had given the students involved an understanding of Yorkshire's textile manufacturing heritage.

"Our students will have gained immensely from this project and hopefully some of their creativity will bring new perspectives to SIL's brands and Yorkshire's textiles industry" said Simon.

Student Jemima Robinson commented; *'Abbotsford's woollen Melton fabric was the perfect material to show the versatile nature of wool from its use in industry through to arts and crafts at home.'*

Wool Yorkshire presents a collection of artworks and installations, inspired by the thriving Yorkshire wool textiles industry. This is to celebrate Wool Week, one of the global initiatives by the Campaign for Wool to educate and promote the benefits of using wool in fashion, furnishings and everyday life.

Since its launch in 2010, The Campaign for Wool has influenced a new demand for wool on an international scale, and its efforts have seen an outstanding threefold increase in the price farmers receive for their wool. Every year The Campaign for Wool stages Wool Week, a week-long festival of events and workshops celebrating wool in all its guises.

Speaking of her excitement about Harvey Nichols' window display installation, Sue Stones, General Manager at Harvey Nichols Leeds, said; *"It's inspiring to know that Yorkshire's wool textile industry is behind some of the most luxurious and successful fashion houses, not only in the UK but in each of the fashion capitals around the world. Wool Yorkshire is the perfect platform for raising awareness and communicating the importance of wool manufacturing in the region and it's fantastic to be supporting a campaign that showcases the county's rich heritage."*



For further information contact:

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Press Call:

Media and photographers are invited to attend on Monday 14th October when a pen of live sheep will be in Briggate, Leeds, to symbolise the importance of Yorkshire's textile mills in supporting farmers and small enterprises around the world.

Students and representatives of the textile industry will be available for interview.

To arrange an interview or discuss a photo or filming opportunity, please contact Jenni Moulson on 01423 545684 or 07771 362 501.

Launch Event – Media Invitation

Members of the media are also warmly invited to the **Wool Yorkshire** launch event with drinks and canapés at the Espresso Park, Harvey Nichols, Leeds on Monday 14th October from 6.30-8.30pm.

To confirm your attendance please contact janet@SILHoldings.co.uk

Editor's Notes**Leeds College of Art**

Founded in 1842, Leeds College of Art is an innovative institution that has changed the way art qualifications are taught and structured in Britain today.

We combine academic and vocational excellence in all our undergraduate programmes. Our focus is to put student's talents to practical use, so their creativity is channelled towards a successful career or postgraduate study.

Our students and staff create a unique community of vibrant, ambitious and deeply creative artists and designers. We are based in Leeds, an internationally acclaimed centre for teaching and learning in addition to being a leading hub for creative and digital industries.

www.leeds-art.ac.uk

SIL Holdings

Wool Yorkshire is an initiative of SIL Holdings Ltd and is being launched to promote the importance and success of the wool textile industry in West Yorkshire and raise awareness of its global reputation.

SIL Holdings group of companies is an integrated group of textile related businesses spanning the whole spectrum of production from raw fibre to finished fabric.

Located in West Yorkshire, the cradle of fine woollen and worsted fabric production, the group started in the 1970s. Today SIL Holdings is the modern face of textiles with group companies trading fibre

and yarn as well as weaving, finishing and marketing woollen cloth to every corner of the globe.

The Group uses the phrase “Textile Excellence” to encompass the ethos of the businesses within it.

FIBRE - The fibre division businesses combine as one of the largest speciality fibre manufacturers and merchants in the world, supplying cashmere, mohair, camel hair, angora, alpaca and silk to a diverse customer base.

YARN - MBA Yarns is one of Europe’s leading stockists of woollen and worsted yarn for apparel and upholstery.

WOOLLEN CLOTH – Fine woollen, wool/cashmere and 100% cashmere cloths for jacketing, coating and scarves are created in Batley, West Yorkshire by Joshua Ellis and Kynoch, two of the world’s leading manufacturers of cashmere cloth.

WORSTED CLOTH - The group owns four of the world’s finest worsted brands in John Foster, William Halstead, Reid and Taylor and Charles Clayton. Their designs are expertly woven into luxury cloths by one of their weaving operations - Stanley Mills Weavers in Bradford, West Yorkshire. These businesses set the standard in fine suiting fabrics and in delivering the British look.

FURNISHING FABRICS – Abbotsford designs and manufactures an extensive range of high quality, vibrant furnishing fabrics for contract, leisure and domestic interiors.

These businesses are supported by a range of other operations delivering fibre processing, spinning, weaving, dyeing and finishing.

The SIL group are proud to sell to some of the finest luxury brands in the world such as Louis Vuitton, Ralph Lauren, Prada and Chanel as well as major contractors such as BAE Systems.

Wool Week is an annual event promoted by Campaign for Wool, an organisation that aims to raise awareness amongst consumers about the unique, natural, renewable and biodegradable benefits offered by the fibre. Campaign for Wool’s patron is HRH The Prince of Wales.