



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leeds College of Art student wins top award at New Designers 2015, *the* exhibition for emerging design

Leeds College of Art textiles and surface pattern design student, Gemma Kennally, has taken one of the top awards at this year's New Designers (ND) show in London; *the* exhibition for emerging design.

Kennally was competing for just one of twelve awards on offer, amongst 3,000 of the most promising design graduates from Britain's leading design courses. She showcased her work to an audience of over 18,000 visitors, at the exhibition which ran from 24 - 27th June (ND part 1).

Kennally, who is from Leeds, has just completed her BA (Hons) degree in Printed Textiles & Surface Pattern Design won the ND Wilko and W'Innovate Award for Innovation, plus a cash prize of £1,000 and a two week placement with W'Innovate (Wilko's design development company which provides product & surface pattern and print design services). It was announced at the opening ceremony on 24th June which was officially opened by writer, broadcaster and director of the Design Museum, Deyan Sudjic.

On winning the award Kennally said: *"I'm amazed and shocked. It's so nice to be recognised and have your hard work appreciated. It's a great opportunity to get my name out there and get some industry experience."*



Her winning collection, entitled Garden Blooms was a collection of small ranges; ditsy florals, floral splash, garden blooms and secret garden applied to greetings, giftware and stationery using mixed processes. Here is her full Arts Thread portfolio

The judges said: 'we chose Gemma for the breadth of portfolio and diversity of products could be applied to. She demonstrates a fresh and commercial approach to her work'.

BA (Hons) Printed Textiles & Surface Pattern Design Programme Leader Duncan Harrison commented on the success:

"We bring our students to New Designers each year so they can build industry connections and showcase their work. Historically our students do very well and receive a great response to their work. This is the third year one of our students has won the Wilko and W'Innovate Award for Innovation and the tenth ND award in the last five years. We are very proud of our ongoing and outstanding achievements."

Editor's Notes

For more information & images contact: Emma Morris, PR & Communications Officer, 0113 202 8044 or emma.morris@leeds-art.ac.uk

Link to high res images of Gemma Kennally [here](#)

Details of all the award winners are on ND website [here](#)

New Designers' Awards (part 1) are presented to the most talented design graduates in the fields of: Textiles; Fashion & Accessories; Contemporary Applied Arts (including Ceramics and Glass); Jewellery and Precious Metalwork. They are presented in partnership with leading brands and organisations.

'It's where creative directors from the high-street stores go to scout for the next Orla Kiely or Bethan Gray' Katrina Burroughs, Design Critic, Sunday Times

Arts Thread

Arts Thread is an online graduate portfolio site and is a partner of New Designers. It provides a year round extension of the New Designers exhibition. Arts Thread provides a comprehensive index, directory and sourcing facility, enabling anyone, wherever they are in the world, to view new and emerging design talent, whether for commission, freelance or full-time employment. www.artshread.com