

'The Power of Hand Stitching' - A Refugee Craft Group Project in Partnership with Alice Kettle



Christopher Farr Cloth has collaborated with Alice Kettle, a contemporary textile artist and Professor of Textiles at Manchester School of Art, Manchester Metropolitan University on a special cushion project with craft groups of refugees. With Alice's guidance and support, the brand has commissioned individuals from craft groups across the UK to create a collection of hand-embroidered cushions featuring distinctive running stitched designs. The program continues Alice's ongoing work with Bridges for Communities and the Arnolfini's Women's Craft Group in partnership with the Bristol Refugee Festival.

This project has a deeply personal connection to Alice, as her daughter introduced her to the plight of displaced people and families through her charitable work. Alice has since been working with several refugee organisations. The project Thread Bearing Witness uses textiles to learn from, show solidarity with, and raise funds for displaced people. The partnership with Christopher Farr Cloth is a celebration of the common language the craft represents. Through this enterprise, Alice has worked with both individuals and crafts groups, building trust and connecting with each of them through the emotive power of hand stitching.

"This project and the work of Bridges for Communities and the Arnolfini Craft Group allow people displaced from their homes or countries to connect with others. We come together through hand stitching to make beautiful work and demonstrate the power of human dignity."
Alice Kettle

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Michal Silver, Design Director

Each cushion is a one of a kind commission featuring motifs and designs personal to each maker. The designs include heart motifs, flowers and garden scenes using colourful thread stitched on a linen cloth. Inspired by the beautiful stitchwork created by the crafts groups, Alice has also created a series of cushions using techniques she has learned from the refugees and has incorporated them with her distinctive design aesthetic. The cushion collection will be available exclusively online at www.chrsitopherfarrcloth.com from Tuesday, 22nd November.



Squares Cushion



Blue Flower and Wind Cushion

White Lily Cushion



Hearts Cushion



Wild Flower Cushion



Circles Cushion



Tree Tops Cushion

Red Rudbeckia Cushion



Chrysanthemum Cushion

Alice Kettle

Alice Kettle is a contemporary textile/fibre artist based in the UK. Alice is currently a Professor in Textile Arts at Manchester School of Art, Manchester Metropolitan University. Alice stitched works, many the size of huge figurative tapestries, exploit the textures and effects made possible by harnessing a mechanical process to intuitive and creative ends. In contrast, she continues the tradition of monumental textiles in her large-scale works. Her work is represented in various public collections such as the Crafts Council London, the Whitworth in Manchester, and the Museo Internazionale delle Arti Applicate Oggi, Turin, Italy. Commissions include the National Library of Australia, the Scottish High Court in Edinburgh, Gloucester and Winchester Cathedrals and the School of Music & Drama at Manchester University. She's recently completed a significant commission for Lloyds Register Global Technology Centre at Southampton University.

www.alicekettle.co.uk

www.miriad.mmu.ac.uk

Bridges for Communities

Bridges for Communities is a Bristol-based charity that connects people of different cultures, races and faiths, enabling them to build friendships and grow in their understanding of one another. Bridges was founded in 2010 by Dan & Karen Green, who were living in the Middle East and were seeking ways for young people from the UK and the Middle East to meet and build understanding and trust. When they moved back to the UK in 2012, they began to develop other initiatives and programs, such as Peace Feast, and since then, have been gradually adding projects to the Bridges portfolio.

www.bridgesforcommunities.com

Arnolfini/The Bristol Refugee Festival

Arnolfini is Bristol's International Centre for Contemporary Arts, located on the harbourside in the heart of the city. Woven into the fabric of Bristol since 1961, Arnolfini is an international centre of interdisciplinary contemporary arts, presenting an ambitious and wide-ranging programme of visual art, performance, dance, film, and music. The Arnolfini Craft Group has also partnered with the Bristol Refugee Festival, a year-round collaborative programme of arts, cultural and educational events, bringing together communities across Bristol and beyond to connect, share and celebrate.

www.arnolfini.org.uk

www.bristolrefugeefestival.org

Christopher Farr Cloth

Art, design, and making define the house of Christopher Farr Cloth, created by Michal Silver with partners Christopher Farr and Matthew Bourne. Since its inception in 2000, Cloth's creative direction has been underpinned by a commitment to the finest materials, traditional craftsmanship, and innovative collaborations with renowned artists and designers worldwide. Today, the collection encompasses fabrics, wallcoverings and passementeries. The offering reflects the company's passion for time-honoured textile production processes and an intellectual yet playful approach to design and experimentation.

www.christopherfarrcloth.com

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