

## **Art, Ecology and the Economy exhibitor information**

### **Jillian Morris**

Textile designer/artist

Jillian Morris is a textile designer/artist and trained in 'Design for Handweaving' at Bradford college of Art.

She weaves and dyes using organic materials and much of her work is experimental.



When making scarves, Jillian uses mixes of yarns, including lambswool, silk, linen and paper. She exploits the different properties of these yarns to make the fabric shrink and 'ripple' in the finishing process. At college she based one of her projects on ripples and footprints in the sand, designs she continues to carry forward with new ideas. With weddings and new babies due in the family, she has begun to make samples in white and natural fibres for 'special event'

shawls/wraps, and bags, which are the basis of her exhibition submission.

Jillian's approach to sustainability is to make thoughtful choices as both a practitioner and consumer, and being aware of how these affect local and global communities. Knowing some of the environmental problems related to the textile industry, she aims to find ways to reduce water and heat during dyeing, using ethically sourced materials, including yarns and dyes with eco credentials, recycling and re-using wherever possible.

Recently she has started using yarns from the 'UK Alpaca company' which is based in Devon. These yarns are fabulously soft and light, and she is excited about their potential. She also supports and uses fairly traded items where possible.

A growing trend in textiles is towards producing garments with a long shelf life rather than cheap disposable items. Jillian feels that her work fits into this trend, as she seeks to produce good quality contemporary garments that will be used for special occasions, and hopefully be re-used over a period of time – future heirlooms, perhaps?

*Art, Ecology and the Economy* was shown at CCANW's Project Space in Haldon Forest Park and Duchy Square Centre for Creativity, Princetown, in two simultaneous parts in Winter 2010. It was supported by Arts Council England, Devon County Council and Greater Dartmoor LEAF, incorporating funding from the EU, Defra, SWRDA and LEADER.

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