



**THE  
ARAM  
GALLERY**

**FOR EXPERIMENTAL OR NEW DESIGN**

# PTOLEMY MANN

## The Architecture of Cloth, Colour and Space

16th March - 21st April 2012

In *The Architecture of Cloth, Colour and Space* we are promised a powerful colour saturated experience where Ptolemy Mann's exceptional skill as a weaver and her acute eye for colour are the focus. Interested in designers' experimental approaches to practice, The Aram Gallery is most excited by Mann's recent collaborative projects.

Ptolemy Mann is best known for her textile art and architectural consultancy. In the former she hand dyes warp threads with her refined IKAT technique before they are strung on the loom, woven into fabric, and stretched across a frame to produce a wall mounted or freestanding textile artwork, as with her *Monolith* series. In the latter, her architectural consultancy practice, Mann advises on the introduction of colour into buildings; working with architects to 'weave' it into the structure of the building rather than simply applying it as an afterthought.

In the last few years Mann has adopted digital design techniques. First, working with Christopher Farr on a series of fabrics and large-scale rugs and a short time ago, with John Lewis on a collection of home furnishings. What is so interesting for The Aram Gallery is how this accomplished designer has experimented and adapted her analogue practice to be suitable for digital manufacture.

Talking to Mann during the development of this exhibition she explained how in 2009, when she co-curated the exhibition *Significant Colour* at The Aram Gallery, a move from hand woven to the digitally printed would have been for her "incomprehensible!" so much does she enjoy the act of hand dying and weaving. But through the slow adoption of digital processes such as using a computer to scan, tessellate and repeat a sample of IKAT weave, Mann has become "excited by the potential" of creating digitally printed fabric.

In this exhibition we explore the analogue and digital processes Mann uses to create both her woven textile art and digital prints. Whatever the output; from a sofa upholstered or a dress made from her print design, a wall mounted piece or an architectural commission, Mann's discriminating eye for colour and the precision of her hand is always the dominant feature.

Ptolemy Mann: *The Architecture of Cloth, Colour and Space* is a touring exhibition initiated by the Ruthin Crafts Centre in Wales, opening next at Dovecot Studios, Edinburgh.



King's Mill Hospital facade detail, Swanke Hayden Connell Architects with Ptolemy Mann, 2011  
Photographer Tim Soar

The Aram Gallery is an independently curated space that encourages and promotes understanding of contemporary design. We do this by presenting the work of designers and artists in their early careers.

Director Zeev Aram  
Curator Héloïse Parke

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