**CAROLINE RICHARDS**

Caroline Richards is a weaver with a passion for wool. Texture and handle are of paramount importance in her work, achieved through exploiting the design possibilities offered by the diverse character and versatility of British native wools.

Richards originally trained and worked as a paintings conservator. This experience refined her eye for colour and nurtured an interest in textiles and costume while working on historical portraits. After having to discontinue this work due to a solvent allergy, she re-trained in textile design and thus developed a fascination with wool and its processing.

As a hand-weaver, Richards employs traditional techniques and skills, including wet-finishing, and uses the freedom of the hand process to create one-off functional pieces. Her own dye blends, often based on observations of the natural world, are used to create visual appeal.

Her work is mainly for interiors, comprising bedcover/wall hangings and blankets, as well as upholstery cloth, but extends to woollen and worsted scarves and shawls.

**Born**  Sussex

**Education**

2003-05 MA Contemporary Crafts, Surrey Institute of Art and Design

1999-2003 BA (Hons) First Class, Woven Textile Design, Surrey Institute of Art and Design

1998-99 BTEC HNC Design - Handwoven Textiles, Bradford Community College

**Awards**

2020 2nd Prize, British Wool Award, Bradford Textile Society Design Competition

2019 Commendation, British Wool Award, Bradford Textile Society Design Competition

2015 Commendation, British Wool Marketing Board Award, Bradford Textile Society Design Competition

2014 First Prize, British Wool Marketing Board Award, Bradford Textile Society Design Competition

2013 Presidential Prize for Ingenuity of Entry, Bradford Textile Society Design Competition

 First Prize, British Wool Marketing Board, Bradford Textile Society Design Competition

**Selected Exhibitions**

2015 Solo Exhibition, Hastings Museum and Art Gallery

2014 Campaign for Wool, Southwark Cathedral, London

2013 Christmas Show, Rye Art Gallery, Rye, East Sussex