



Dovecot Tapestry Studio



Press Release

Jim Lambie *Soft Machine* rug made with Dovecot for Studio Voltaire

Studio Voltaire has commissioned Dovecot to create a new gun-tufted rug for sale with Glasgow artist Jim Lambie for an exhibition at its fundraising store, House of Voltaire, in London from 18 November to 18 December 2016.

Studio Voltaire was introduced to Dovecot Tapestry Studio by Fi Scott of Make Works in March 2016 with a view to making a one-off contemporary textile in collaboration with a British artist. Studio Voltaire is a non-profit gallery and artists' studio based in Clapham, South London. The organisation focuses on contemporary arts, staging a celebrated public programme of exhibitions, performances and live events, which are provided free of charge. Studio Voltaire invests in the production of new work and often gives artists their first opportunity for a solo exhibition in London.

Dovecot provided Studio Voltaire with a list of suggested artists with whom collaboration could be imagined. After further discussions, Studio Voltaire contacted Jim Lambie and the Modern Institute in Glasgow to initiate the project with Dovecot on a unique rug, working with designs donated by Lambie. Dovecot rug tufters Kristi Vana and Dennis Reinmüller began the sampling stage for this experimental work in August 2016. Based on Lambie's metal box wall pieces, the design was to emulate his seven sheet aluminium artworks and would combine his striking 2D visuals with an aspect of sculptural work. This point of departure presented its own challenges in the creation of this piece with Lambie, not least in the approach to be taken in this wool medium to create something which has otherwise been realised in metal or paint. In order to achieve a 3D image, Reinmüller and Vana had to carve into the tufted rug with precision, to create a cleaner line than they have ever mastered before.

The final piece will be exhibited by Studio Voltaire's fundraising store House of Voltaire, as part of a larger showcase of works by artists including Chris Ofili, Linder and Peter Saville. The *Soft Machine* rug will be made available for sale, the proceeds of which contribute to the long term missions of both Studio Voltaire and Dovecot in continuing exhibition and education programmes.

The Jim Lambie rug work was in development from August 2016 at Dovecot Tapestry Studio, where members of the public were able to view progress from the Viewing Balcony, which is open and free to access on Thursday and Friday 12-3pm and all day Saturday 10.30am to 5.30pm.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

- The rug was created at Dovecot between August and October 2016 by Dovecot rug tufters Dennis Reinmüller and Kristi Vana
- Rug tufting is a semi-automated process using a gun, running from an air compressor which fires the wool yarn through a canvas backing stretched on a frame
- The Jim Lambie rug was tufted at Dovecot Tapestry Studio using wool by Appletons, who have supplied the Studio since its inception in 1912

About Jim Lambie:

Jim Lambie (born Glasgow 1964), is a contemporary visual artist, and was shortlisted for the 2005 Turner Prize. He graduated from the Glasgow School of Art with an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree. He is represented by The Modern Institute, Andrew Hamilton/Toby Webster Ltd, Glasgow, Sadie Coles HQ, London and Anton Kern Gallery, New York.

About Studio Voltaire:

Studio Voltaire is a place of constant creativity, with a full year-round programme of exhibitions, events and education projects, as well as our on-site complex of affordable artist studios. Meanwhile our innovative fundraising store House of Voltaire offers unique artworks, limited edition prints, homewares, clothing and objects by leading contemporary artists and designers – giving many people their first chance to own art and collect contemporary art and design. Whether online or from one of our international temporary presentations, every purchase from House of Voltaire directly supports Studio Voltaire's exhibition and education programmes.

About House of Voltaire:

A temporary Mayfair store with over 150 new artist and designer made works, supported by partners QIC Global Real Estate and Farfetch.

House of Voltaire, 31 Cork Street, Mayfair, London, W1S 3NU

18 November to 18 December 2016

Opening times: Mon-Sat 11am-7pm Sun 12-5pm

Dovecot Tapestry Studio opening times:

Tapestry Studio Viewing Balcony: Thursday and Friday 12-3pm | Saturday 10.30am-5.30pm

Press release image credit:

Jim Lambie, *Soft Machine* rug detail, gun tufted by Dennis Reinmüller and Kristi Vana, Dovecot Tapestry Studio ©Jim Lambie/Dovecot Studios Ltd. 2016

More images here: <http://ow.ly/pERD3064MhK>

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About Dovecot Studios:

Dovecot Gallery

Dovecot Gallery is a landmark centre for contemporary art, craft and design built around a leading international tapestry studio. Occupying an extraordinary building in the heart of Edinburgh, the Gallery works to programme, commission and produce exhibitions and events for audiences and clients who share Dovecot's passion for making and the creative arts.

Dovecot Tapestry Studio

Dovecot Tapestry Studio is a world-renowned producer of hand-woven tapestry and gun-tufted rugs. Continuing a century-long heritage of making and collaboration with leading international contemporary artists, the Studio weavers are dedicated to producing extraordinary and engaging works of art by commission from private and public collectors from across the globe.

Dovecot Foundation

Dovecot Foundation exists to champion Dovecot Tapestry Studio and its place in the world of contemporary art, design and making. The Foundation puts the Studio at the heart of this mission in supporting the Dovecot Apprenticeship Programme, collaborations with leading artists from around the world and development of cultural and educational partnerships. Ultimately, the Foundation seeks to bring the innovative work of contemporary artists and makers to a wider audience.

History

Dovecot Studios was founded in 1912 by the Marquess of Bute, a patron of the arts. The first weavers at Dovecot, Gordon Berry and John Glassbrook, came from the renowned William Morris Studios at Merton Abbey in Wimbledon. Dovecot's first commission was for a series of monumental tapestries for the Marquess' own home at Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute.

In 1946, the Studios were incorporated as The Edinburgh Tapestry Company. Dovecot soon became established as a leading contemporary fine art tapestry studio, with works commissioned for major public, corporate and academic institutions worldwide. As a key player in the renaissance of tapestry in the 20th century, Dovecot's Master Weavers worked with many leading contemporary artists including David Hockney, Henry Moore, Frank Stella and RB Kitaj.

Dovecot's Master Weavers continue to work to commission, producing tapestry and tufted rugs for private and public collectors. Major tapestry projects include Alison Watt's *Butterfly* for Scottish Opera's new Theatre Royal, Peter Saville's *Monarch of the Glen* and Magne Furuholmen's *Glass Onion*. Working with artists such as Than Clark, Linder and Garry Fabian Miller on recent rug commissions have further tested the boundaries of creativity and play with what the process allows.

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