



**Dovecot
Tapestry
Studio**



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VICTORIA MORTON RUG UNVEILED AT THE PERSE SCHOOL

On Thursday 8 March 2018, a rug titled *You Can Radiate Over Here*, created at Dovecot in collaboration with artist Victoria Morton, was unveiled by commissioner The Perse School at its newly built Peter Hall Performing Arts Centre designed by architect Haworth Tompkins.

The project began in 2015, when Haworth Tompkins first contacted Dovecot with a concept for the 400 seat Performing Arts Centre which would include a textile art work for the main public space. The fully glazed foyer with its triple height fair faced concrete stair wall required a vibrant element to contrast against the self-finished building materials and relate to the surrounding landscape.

Dovecot proposed a list of contemporary artists to Haworth Tompkins, responding to a set of criteria including that the artist should have a connection to Cambridge and their work should be appropriate for interpretation in the textile medium. A short list of artists was selected by the commissioner The Perse School. The winning commissioned artist was Victoria Morton, a Glasgow based abstract painter whose work has crossed disciplines but never into textile before.

Dovecot have experience of collaborating with artists who cross boundaries and were delighted that Victoria Morton was selected as the artist for the commission as they knew her beyond disciplines approach would make for an exciting and artistically challenging textile. The main challenges for tufter Kristi Vana, was to establish a sense of Victoria Morton's marks or 'handwriting', and to encapsulate the complexity of colour blending in wool as is present in the artist's paintings. These design considerations were explored through a series of gun-tufted samples, which both the Dovecot team and Morton reviewed together, before approaching the final textile piece.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

- The rug was created at Dovecot between November 2016 and January 2018 by Dovecot rug tufter Kristi Vana and took approximately eight months to tuft.
- The rug measures 4 (height) x 3 (width) metres.
- The Victoria Morton rug was gun tufted at Dovecot Tapestry Studio using mainly wool by Appletons, who have supplied the Studio since its inception in 1912.

About The Perse School:

The Perse is Cambridge's oldest surviving secondary school, founded in 1615 by Dr Stephen Perse, a fellow of Gonville and Caius College. He left a considerable sum to establish a 'free grammar school' for talented boys from all backgrounds, hoping to provide a route out of poverty and into the University. In the following 400 years The Perse has expanded to offer prep and pre-prep education and to welcome girls. The Perse School retains close links with Gonville and Caius College and the University of Cambridge, and through their £1 million per annum means-tested bursary programme,

educate more than 120 pupils whose families would not otherwise be able to afford a Perse education. Today The Perse is known for 'learning by doing' in all subjects, and in the sciences and technology there is an emphasis on practical experimentation. The new Peter Hall Performing Arts Centre at The Perse School, opening in March 2018 recognises that the performing arts help develop confidence, creativity and communication, and places them at the heart of our site and everyday school life.

About Victoria Morton:

Victoria Morton (b.1971) is a Glasgow-based artist whose work involves the use of painting, sound, found objects, garments and photography. Morton has a BA (Hons) in Fine Art Painting and an MFA from Glasgow School of Art. Her work reflects upon historical painting and literature, while also considering notions of the everyday and alluding to the domestic through use of found household objects. Morton's work has been exhibited in various institutions in the UK and abroad, including The Fruitmarket Gallery and Inverleith House, Edinburgh; Il Capricorno, Venice; Sadie Coles, London; Tramway and The Modern Institute, Glasgow. Her work is currently held in the collection of the Scottish Gallery of Modern Art, Harper Mackay Architects and Designers in London, as well as in private collections in England, Denmark, Germany and the USA.

About Haworth Tompkins:

Haworth Tompkins is an architectural practice based in London, which has a strong reputation for their work in the cultural, educational and residential sectors. Founded by Graham Haworth and Steve Tompkins their work has received numerous major design awards including the RIBA Stirling Prize for the Liverpool Everyman Theatre, and their cultural projects include: the London Library, the National Theatre, Chichester Festival Theatre, the Royal College of Art, the Hayward Gallery and Battersea Arts Centre. As architects Haworth Tompkins often collaborate on public art projects within their buildings and they have worked with artists including: Martin Creed, Clem Crosby and Nathan Coley. The studio has also worked extensively with Antoni Malinowski on a number of projects.

Press release image credit:

Victoria Morton, *You Can Radiate Over Here*, installed at The Perse School Peter Hall Performing Arts Centre, tufted by Kristi Vana, Dovecot Studios, 2018.

For press information and further images: Lizzie Cowan, Marketing & Communications Manager
lizziecowan@dovecotstudios.com T: 0131 550 3660

Dovecot Tapestry Studio Enquires: Naomi Robertson, Studio Manager & Master Weaver
naomirobertson@dovecotstudios.com T: 0131 550 3661

About Dovecot Studios:

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.

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 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.

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 Chris Ofili for The Clothworkers Company, 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.

Dovecot Studios Ltd, 10 Infirmary Street, Edinburgh EH10 1LT

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