



Dovecot Gallery



Press Release

LIBERTY ART FABRICS & FASHION

Celebrating Liberty art fabrics and their impact on fashion since 1875.

- Major *Liberty Art Fabrics & Fashion* retrospective brought to Scotland for the first time
- Featuring over 100 fabrics and garments spanning Liberty's 143 year history
- Celebrates how Liberty fabrics have brought art into everyday life
- Connects Dovecot's Arts & Crafts lineage with the history of British textile production
- Highlights Liberty connections in Scotland with designers Jean Muir and Marion Donaldson
- Partner exhibition for Edinburgh Art Festival and Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Exhibition open: Saturday 28 July 2018 to Saturday 12 January 2019

Press week: Saturday 21 to Thursday 26 July (not Sunday 22) by appointment only

Photography/film: Please contact info@dovecotstudios.com to make an appointment

Install images: Available from Monday 30 July 2018

Exhibition open to the public: Mon-Sat 10.30am-5.30pm | Open Daily 10.30am-5.30pm and late Thursday night until 8pm throughout August.

Web: [Liberty Art Fabrics & Fashion](#) | **Social media:** #libertylondon #artfabricsfashion

Dovecot Gallery brings to Scotland for the first time, a major retrospective celebrating the innovative retailer and design studio Liberty London. Featuring over 100 garments and fabrics spanning over 140 years, this exhibition explores how textiles bring art into everyday life.

Liberty Art Fabrics & Fashion charts Liberty's history as a source for key trends in cultural history, including Aestheticism, Art Nouveau, Bauhaus, Pop and Psychedelia. The exhibition presents a historical survey, featuring early garments inspired by the Far East, through to iconic designs of the Swinging Sixties and more recent collaborations with leading British designers.

Arthur Lasenby Liberty's visionary store was established in London in 1875 selling dyed silk fabrics from the Far East, but quickly expanded to become the destination of choice for the discerning fashion buyer. As the Arts & Crafts movement in Britain went international, Liberty traded in imported woven goods, wools and silks from Asia, attracting the attention of artists and innovators of the time including William Morris, Oscar Wilde and Edward Burne-Jones. Unlike Morris, Liberty believed that using industrialised methods to produce textiles was essential in order to make beautiful things available at an affordable price. It was in the district where Morris' own workshops at Merton Abbey where Dovecot Studios' founding weavers were trained, that Liberty established a textile print works. Liberty's pioneering vision to support British design and craftsmanship extended to engage local textile mills to weave cloth and printing firms to create new colourfast dyes, to replicate the popular fabrics he sourced from overseas.

Throughout its history, Liberty's print collaborations with textile and fashion innovators including Yves Saint Laurent, Loewe, The Vampire's Wife, Manolo Blahnik and most recently Richard Quinn, have secured the company's global reputation as the source and originator of key trends and design

revivals. Such is the fame of Liberty that in Italy the Art Nouveau style became known as the 'Stile Liberty'. Pieces within the collection on display for *Liberty Art Fabrics & Fashion* demonstrate the breadth of these designer collaborations whilst associations with Scotland including designers Jean Muir and Marion Donaldson are also highlighted.

Celia Joicey, Director of Dovecot says; "Dovecot is delighted to bring Liberty Art Fabrics & Fashion to Edinburgh. The exhibition celebrates how a British textile brand can become a worldwide success as well as a byword for artistic quality and creativity. Liberty has a long association with art and design in Scotland, from paisley patterns and the Arts and Crafts Movement to the modernity of Jean Muir. This exhibition is an opportunity to explore Liberty's Scottish textile connections in the context of the company's commitment to international avant-garde fashion design."

Madeleine Macey, Marketing & Communications Director of Liberty London says: "Liberty is thrilled to collaborate with Dovecot Studios as part of this year's Edinburgh Art Festival. Like Liberty, Dovecot represents exceptional art and craftsmanship in textiles with a renowned international reputation. We are very excited this exhibition explores how artists, designers and other creative individuals have used Liberty as a medium for self-expression from 1875 to the present day."

Bringing a contemporary response to the exhibition, emerging artist Lucy Wayman showcases recent sculptural pieces as part of the display. Her works revolve around repetitive structures and soft materials and utilise generational craft techniques, such as weaving and macramé.

The exhibition *Liberty Art Fabrics & Fashion* is presented in partnership with Edinburgh Art Festival and The Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and in association with Liberty London, with support from The Dovecot Foundation.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

- Tickets are priced Adult £9, Concession £7 (Student, Unwaged, Disabled Person), Art Fund National Art Pass holders £4.50, Under 16 Disabled Person's carer or companion FREE. All tickets can be booked in advance from Dovecot's website www.dovecotstudios.com and subject to availability may be purchased in person on the day of visit.
- Opening Times are Dovecot Gallery Mon-Sat 10.30am-5.30pm
During August: Mon-Sun 10.30am-5.30pm (Thursday 10.30am-8pm)
- In partnership with Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Dovecot will be open late on Thursday evenings throughout August until 8pm for *Liberty Lates*. Tickets are half-price entry £4.50 and can be booked via the Fringe box office or directly from Dovecot Studios.
- The *Liberty Art Fabrics & Fashion* display is part of a touring exhibition originally presented at the Fashion & Textile Museum in London and comprises the private collection of Liberty garments and objects owned by Marc and Cleo Butterfield. The *Liberty in Fashion* exhibition at Fashion & Textile Museum was organised by the Museum and Newham College, and was curated by Dennis Nothdruff, Curator of Fashion & Textile Museum, with exhibition consultant Anna Buruma, Liberty London Archivist. Kate Grenyer, Dovecot's Exhibitions Curator has adapted the display for Dovecot's audiences.
- Liberty is one of the last great emporiums for innovative and eclectic design. Founded by Sir Arthur Lasenby Liberty in 1875, it remains to this day the destination of choice of the savvy and sophisticated shopper. Arthur Liberty's intuitive vision and pioneering spirit led him to travel the world looking for individual pieces to inspire and excite his discerning clientele. At the Liberty store today in London, customers can explore five floors of fashion, beauty,

accessories, homeware and furniture which combine the rich heritage with the cutting edge and avant-garde style.

- Jean Muir (1928-1995), who is known for her Scottish ancestry and whose archive is in the National Museum of Scotland, began her career in fashion as a stockroom assistant at Liberty & Co. in 1950. She worked as a seller and fashion sketcher in the lingerie and Young Liberty sections and Liberty textiles featured in many of her own fashion collections.
- Marion Donaldson and husband David moved in Scotland in 1966 to start a fashion label that defined a generation. They used Liberty fabrics to create their garments, examples of which are featured in the *Liberty Art Fabrics & Fashion* exhibition.

Exhibition events:

Information regarding the *Liberty Art Fabrics & Fashion* supporting exhibition events programme can be accessed via: [//dovecotstudios.com](http://dovecotstudios.com) or by contacting info@dovecotstudios.com.

For press information, early access, images and interviews:

Lizzie Cowan, Marketing & Communications Manager

lizziecowan@dovecotstudios.com T: 0131 550 3660 W: www.dovecotstudios.com

Dovecot Studios 10 Infirmary Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1LT.

Dovecot Gallery is partnering with Edinburgh Art Festival and Edinburgh Festival Fringe for *Liberty Art Fabrics & Fashion*. Supported by The Dovecot Foundation and in association with Liberty London.



**Dovecot
Foundation**

**LIBERTY
LONDON**

**EDIN
BURGH
ART
FEST
IVAL 2018**

fringe The Edinburgh Festival
03 – 27 August 2018

About Dovecot Studios:

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's *The Caged Bird's Song* exhibited at the National Gallery and commissioned by The Clothworker's 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 Linder, Than Clark and Garry Fabian Miller on recent rug commissions have further tested the boundaries of creativity.

Occupying an extraordinary building in the heart of Edinburgh, Dovecot also works to programme, commission and produce exhibitions and events for audiences and clients who share Dovecot's passion for making and the creative arts. The Foundation which exists to champion Dovecot's place in the world of contemporary art, design and making supports the Dovecot Apprenticeship Programme, collaborations with leading artists from around the world and development of cultural and educational partnerships. Ultimately, The Dovecot Foundation seeks to bring the innovative work of contemporary artists and makers to a wider audience through the programme with Dovecot Gallery.

About Liberty London Collection:

Combining cutting-edge artistry, forward-thinking design and a sense of how to make people feel seen, Liberty has been a destination of discovery since the store opened its doors in 1875. From the outset, our founder Arthur Lasenby Liberty sought to beautify everyday things, partnering with progressive artists, nurturing artisans from unexplored continents and reigniting the British textile industry with a range of artistic and innovative fabrics. Later, the birth of our signature silk-like cotton, Tana Lawn, would liberate the way people designed clothing and encourage self-expression. Such is the significance of our fabled history that Liberty artefacts, including our extensive print archive, are housed in the City of Westminster Archives. We stay true to our design heritage through our Liberty London Collection of exquisite accessories, silk scarves, sleepwear, soft furnishings and stationery. Combining original print design, fine production processes and continually evolving technologies, products in the Liberty London Collection remain at the forefront of style. From British royalty to cultural icons Oscar Wilde and David Bowie, and present day tastemakers Alexa Chung and Emma Watson, our designs are loved the world over.

About Lucy Wayman:

Lucy is a Welsh artist based in Edinburgh and has worked from her studio at Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop since she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Sculpture degree from Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) in 2016. Lucy is originally from rural North Wales in the Snowdonia National Park, where she attended Coleg Menai to study an Art and Design Foundation course before applying to study at ECA. In 2017 she was awarded the Graduate three-year subsidised studio at Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop and the Chalmers Bursary Award for New Contemporaries at the Royal Scottish Academy. In 2018 she was selected artist for the Hidden Door Festival.

Lucy Wayman artist statement:

"My work revolves around material constraints, contrasts, and forms. I am interested in playing with opposing preconceptions of objects and their functions, especially in relation to the human body. Repetition is a key element in my work, as it is this comprehensible order I rely heavily upon. My rhythmic repetitive process of making has a therapeutic calming presence in the formation of my work, which I feel is then mirrored in the viewers' emotional understanding. Through inherited craft techniques, such as weaving, knotting and macramé, I create an emotive tension amongst the forms. The taut shapes created by weighting and knotting heightens the physical relief when the piece hits the floor in a sensuous slump. This in turn creating a contrast between the rational repetition and the emotional release. It is a tension between order and chaos, between cerebral and corporeal functions, between restraint and lust."