



# Dovecot Studios

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Dovecot Studios create a major new tapestry with acclaimed artist Barbara Rae**

**To mark this exciting project, a new display 'Barbara Rae: Tapestries and Rugs' will open on 22 June to explore the process of creating the tapestry alongside never-before-seen handcrafted rugs created by Barbara Rae and Dovecot weavers.**

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Marking 25 years of collaborative working, Dovecot Studios are excited to be working with Royal Academician painter and master printmaker Barbara Rae CBE RSA on a significant new tapestry titled *Peel Sound Ice*.

This new tapestry celebrates the artist's critically acclaimed recent body of work exploring the Northwest Passage in the Arctic region, which was shown at the Royal Scottish Academy (RSA) in 2018 for the first time.

The iconic image that inspired the tapestry design featured on the RSA exhibition catalogue and poster, and depicts the depth and mystery of the icy Arctic waters with deep blues, wisps of silver, and bursts of striking pink. The finished tapestry will measure two metres square and will demonstrate the power of tapestry and textile to connect with audiences in new ways.

Rae has made three journeys through the Northwest Passage exploring a landscape that is ever changing and suffering from the devastating effects of global climate change. Driven by the interaction of colour and light, and the desire to capture the human relationship with landscape, these journeys have allowed the artist to spend time reflecting on light and colour in a completely new way.

Dovecot's expert weavers are drawn to Rae's passion for colour and expressive approach, which make her paintings and prints stimulating subjects to translate into tapestry. Working collaboratively, the studio and Rae have created 12 tapestries and rugs since 1994.



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To celebrate this important new tapestry, it will be displayed alongside the original painting *Peel Sound – Ice No. 1* and two rugs created by Rae and Dovecot weavers that have never been shown publically. This display *Barbara Rae: Tapestries and Rugs* on the Tapestry Studio Viewing Balcony will also include studies from Rae’s acclaimed Arctic series, some shown for the first time, and will explore and illustrate the creative relationship between artist and weaver.

Dovecot Master Weaver Naomi Robertson said: ‘It is exciting for the studio to be working with Barbara to create a new piece of work inspired by her Arctic series. Dovecot weavers have a longstanding relationship with the artist, and this new tapestry presents the challenge of working with a very different colour palette to capture the cool, icy hues of the Arctic landscape. This iconic imagery is timely and fitting to mark a rewarding 25 year working relationship between artist and weavers.’

**ENDS**

## **Notes to editors**

**Display Entry:** Free

**Display opening hours:** Mon-Fri 12:00-15:00, Saturday 10:00-17:00

**Display opening hours in August:** Mon-Fri 12:00-15:00, Sat-Sun 10:00-17:00

For more information contact Susan Mc Ateer, Marketing and Sales Manager, Dovecot Studios  
[susanmcateer@dovecotstudios.com](mailto:susanmcateer@dovecotstudios.com) 0131 550 3660

## **About Barbara Rae**

Barbara Rae CBE RSA is a Royal Academician painter and master printmaker who is recognised for her intuitive and expressive use of colour. Originally from Falkirk, Rae studied at Edinburgh College of Art and has taught drawing, painting and printmaking at Aberdeen College of Education and Glasgow School of Art.

Rae’s work has been included in many solo and group exhibitions both nationally and internationally. In 1994 and 1999, she worked with Dovecot Studios to create tapestry commissions for The Festival Theatre, Edinburgh and for the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh. Rae’s work is included in many private collections in Britain, Europe and the USA, as well as in many public and corporate collections.

## **About Dovecot Studios**

Dovecot is a world-renowned tapestry studio in the heart of Edinburgh and a landmark centre for contemporary art, craft, and design. Established in 1912, Dovecot continues a century-long heritage of collaboration with international artists to make exceptional and engaging works of art.

Dovecot Studios undertakes public and private textile commissions, with major tapestry projects including collaborations with Chris Ofili, Alison Watt, and Peter Blake. Also specialising in handcrafted rugs, Dovecot have worked with various artists such as Linder, Jim Lambie, and Nicholas Party.

Occupying an extraordinary building, formerly Victorian baths, Dovecot also has an engaging programme of exhibitions and events, which expand the conversation around art, craft and design.