

# Textile Society's Bursary

This year's overall winner was postgraduate Abigail Barnes who recently graduated from the Royal College of Art where she specialised in Mixed Media Textiles. Abigail explains: "My graduate collection focused on luxurious embroidery and embellishment design, where I looked at ways to exploit traditional techniques of hand embroidery, while using more contemporary processes." The judges were impressed by the level of skill and craftsmanship demonstrated in the production of the work, and how this was deployed to creative effect. Sumptuous materials - leathers, (stingray and ostrich), furs, pearls and silks were utilised to form highly decorative embellished and constructed cloths that have the potential for a wide variety of applications. The judges reported: "The work of Abigail Barnes is sensory and exquisite. There is an elegant fusion between the digital and 'hand' processes with media and materials being sensitively and carefully selected. Student's work should show the potential of itself, rather than be at a point of closure, and it was for this reason that we were particularly impressed with Abigail's application." Abigail used her bursary award to buy materials to put together a trim collection in collaboration with her friend Elizabeth Ashdown, a Weave designer, also a recent graduate from the RCA, to exhibit at Première Vision, Paris, the fashion industry's premier material sourcing event. Abigail said: "The Textile Society's award really helped me to fund Paris, which was a wonderful, if a little overwhelming experience. I spoke to lots of inspiring and influential people in the industry and it was great to see how my work would translate in terms of production for a fashion house or atelier in London. The two runners up were postgraduates Kita Katona and Alice Hebdon.

<http://www.textilesociety.org.uk/bursaries-awards/student-bursary.php>



# New Chair of the Contemporary Glass Society

Norfolk glassmaker Sue Purser Hope has been elected Chair of the Contemporary Glass Society (CGS). In her new role Susan, a commercial interior designer turned glassmaker from Cromer, has already worked with Patricia van den Akker of the Design Trust to develop a professional development course specifically for glass artists. This is aimed at enabling glass artists to review their business and become more successful in their chosen career.

"My intention as Chair is to try and raise awareness amongst those outside the glass world of the amazing diversity of glass making techniques and forms and to provide the opportunity for them to become more involved, including making glass themselves," says Sue. "In this way, the profile of glass artists will be raised especially in their local community. As a result I hope that there will be more sales and increasing numbers of collectors."

She adds: "Glass is a craft form that is increasingly under threat as more and more universities reduce the provision of glass courses. Often the assumption is that a glass artist only produces stained glass as if it is the only form of glassmaking, which of course it is not. I want more young people to study glass and contemporary glass art so that it becomes as much a part of daily life as any other art form."

CGS is the only society representing contemporary glass artists in the UK. It celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and has developed from a small group of glass artists into a charitable society with almost 1,000 members. An organisation that now represents contemporary glass, glass artists and collectors both in the UK and internationally.

To continue CGS's celebrations, Sue is organising a series of major exhibitions over the next three years to cover the British Isles which will be open for all members. Most of these exhibitions will extend for two months and will contain a high community involvement. There will be artists' talks, open evenings, workshops and craft fairs.

[www.cgs.org.uk](http://www.cgs.org.uk)  
[www.purserhope.co.uk](http://www.purserhope.co.uk)

