CORDIS GROUPWORK 2019

Come and Weave With Us!

Tapestry artists in Edinburgh will be aware of The Cordis Prize for Tapestry, and the associated exhibition of shortlisted works, which this year will take place at Inverleith House from 16th March to 28th May. As an exciting new development the Cordis Trust have this year decided to fund a new initiative to celebrate the place of Edinburgh in the contemporary development of the artform. The Cordis Groupwork Tapestry will be the largest collaborative woven tapestry piece made in Edinburgh in living memory. On completion it will be displayed on loan in the Education Centre of the Palace of Holyroodhouse, where it will celebrate the recreation of the Physic Garden there, to be opened later this year.

The work will measure over three feet by four feet and is based on a design specially commissioned from artist Natalie Taylor who carried out extensive research into the history of Physic gardens and the representation of medicinal plants. Among other sources, she drew on the *Hortus Medicus Edinburgensis*, published 1683, which is the original catalogue of botanical specimens in the Edinburgh Physic Garden. This garden went on to become the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh, where the Groupwork will be created. The plants illustrated are Selfheal, Garlic and Foxglove, and the chemical symbols are the active compounds which make them medically useful.

The design will be divided into 64 sections, each measuring 6 inches by 4.5 inches to be completed by an individual weaver. Each weaver will benefit from free tuition and materials, and the inspiration and company of colleagues. If you have taken part in collaborative work, you will know what an excellent learning opportunity it affords, with stimulation, excitement and unforeseen challenges abounding. We are fortunate to be under the guidance of Jo McDonald, who has enormous experience in overseeing groupworks, including those recently displayed as part of Tapestry Showcase. We hope to promote links between established tapestry artists and the thriving community of enthusiastic amateur and emerging artists.

Taking part in a groupwork is a wonderful way of exploring your own capacity and interests as an artist. However, it comes with responsibilities to your fellow-weavers and to the project as a whole, which are set out in the associated documents. The major commitment is that of time – you will be expected to attend Saturday workshops over a period of months. At the end of the project you will surrender your rights to your work, which will become part of a larger piece, which will be the property of The Cordis Trust. We will endeavour to ensure it is displayed in a public location with proper acknowledgement of all who contributed to its creation.

The design has been specially commissioned for this project, and copyright of the image remains the
property of The Cordis Trust. Please ensure that the Trust, and the original design work of Natalie Taylor are properly credited, and preferably refer to the Cordis Prize website, www.thetapestryprize.org, where the artists, Natalie Taylor, and the Trust are properly credited. All tuition and materials are provided by The Cordis Trust.