

## Earth Threads 2023/2024

Earth Threads is a touring exhibition of contemporary weft-faced woven tapestries. It is the sixth biennial exhibition of the British Tapestry Group (BTG) South East Region. All members of the South East Region were invited to submit a woven tapestry to this exhibition. Earth Threads showcases and celebrates these vibrant and original tapestries from weavers of all levels of experience. The exhibition opens at the historic Whitchurch Silk Mill in Hampshire and then travels to the Sunbury Embroidery Gallery in Sunbury-on-Thames.

The theme Earth Threads was chosen to be both broad and inspiring. The natural world provides a great source of visual beauty and variety which we can celebrate. It is also challenged by climate change, pollution, and the loss of biodiversity. The theme leads to many different viewpoints and each weaver interprets the theme in their own way.

As a medium, woven tapestry provides an extensive toolbox of materials and techniques. Natural materials such as silk, nettle, linen, cotton, and wool are available in many different colours and thicknesses. Recycled or reclaimed items and other materials such as paper, wire, fishing line and lurex can also be used. These materials can both surprise and challenge the viewer.

The exhibition aims to excite and educate both the weaver and the visitor to what is achievable in woven tapestry using original designs, colours, materials, and techniques. Woven tapestries can be both beautiful and thought-provoking, expressing the direct beauty of nature or the challenges of climate change. This exhibition is a showcase of diverse and original tapestry weavings that respect the heritage and traditions of tapestry weaving and celebrate the joy of weaving to the theme of Earth Threads.

It is a privilege to show the Earth Threads exhibition at the historic Whitchurch Silk Mill in Hampshire and at the Sunbury Embroidery Gallery located in the 18th century Walled Garden at Sunbury-on-Thames. We are very grateful for the support of the teams from both venues for promoting contemporary tapestry weaving and making it accessible to a wider audience.

British Tapestry Group South East Exhibition Team

[www.thebritishtapestrygroup.co.uk](http://www.thebritishtapestrygroup.co.uk)