

LILY LOFTS-MCDONNELL

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PROFILE

I am a woven textile designer who creates region-specific textiles using locally sourced materials. Through hand-woven wool naturally dyed with earth pigments, my practice explores the material identity of a place. Working with local sheep breeds and foraged pigments such as chalk, sandstone and clay, I create woven textile artworks that are directly traced to landscapes, using the materials not only for inspiration, but as tools for making. Through collaboration with farmers, makers and suppliers, my work celebrates transparent, traceable and local production.

My current work explores both urban and rural material sourcing. I am working with London-based suppliers to source natural materials within the city, while also currently developing regional collections in Norfolk, Somerset and Kent through collaborations with British sheep farmers, natural dyers, and mills.

EDUCATION

2021 - 2023	TEXTILES MA. ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART Specialising in hand-woven design.	LONDON
2018 - 2021	TEXTILES: INNOVATION AND DESIGN BA. LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY Graduated with a First-Class Honours.	LOUGHBOROUGH
2015-2017	A-LEVELS. NORWICH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS A-Level Textiles (A*), Art (A*). Awarded the Sixth Form Textile Scholarship.	NORWICH

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Jan 2025 – Present	CMF DESIGNER, PRIESTMANGOODE Specialising in the aviation industry, I develop colour and material narratives for high-end clients. My role includes material research, sourcing, supplier collaboration and exploration of material innovations.	LONDON
Oct 2023 – Dec 2024	DESIGN ASSISTANT, LRNCE Working for the Moroccan lifestyle brand, my role included textile sampling, material sourcing, and creating textile artworks. I also naturally dyed fabrics using local materials, spices, and food waste.	MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

EXHIBITIONS

2023	MATERIAL MATTERS DESIGN FAIR, BARGEHOUSE PriestmanGoode X RCA Collaboration. The exhibition showcased the creativity shown by a selection of students who took part in the PG X RCA programme.	LONDON
2023	SURFACE DESIGN SHOW, BUSINESS DESIGN CENTRE Selected to exhibit as part of the annual curation of innovative materials.	LONDON
2023	CLERKENWELL DESIGN WEEK, MODULYSS SHOWROOM Colour of Saying exhibition, curated by Laura Perryman.	LONDON
2023	LEGACY BY SUSTAINLAB, HOCKNEY GALLERY, ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART A student-led exhibition surrounding sustainability and our lasting legacy as designers.	LONDON

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2022	WINNER, PRIESTMANGOODE X ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART LIVE PROJECT The brief explored conscious materials and processes. For my project I developed circular dyeing processes using unlikely waste metals, including iron oxide and copper patina.	LONDON
2019	SHORTLISTED (TOP 5), MILLIKEN LIVE PROJECT The brief was to design a textile collection suitable for a luxury interior client. My project explored wellness for interior spaces, creating a collection of woven samples using ikat dyeing techniques.	LOUGHBOROUGH

COURSES

Jan 2026 – Mar 2026	MAKE IT COUNT, COCKPIT ARTS An upcoming programme for makers who are working out how to shape a practice that is both authentic and viable.	LONDON
2023	WOOL SCHOOL, FERNHILL FARM A four-day course that taught the basics of harvesting, prepping, and spinning raw sheep fleece.	SOMERSET
2023	NATURAL DYEING WITH BRITISH WOOL, HIGHGROVE TRADITIONAL CRAFTS A two-day natural dyeing workshop with Ria Burns looking at the colours that can be achieved with responsibly foraged or home-grown plants and food waste.	DOUGHTON