

Interesting Textile Resources and Artists – SAQA Education Committee - Sustainability Session 1

Are you looking to work more sustainably, perhaps using recycled or discarded materials? Or might you be interested in incorporating historical fabrics and their stories into your art? Maybe you want to raise awareness about environmental concerns through your work?

Textile artists are increasingly focusing on environmental issues and the need for sustainable practices when creating their art. They're intent upon using repurposed and pre-loved materials that have been discarded or found. And the more unconventional, the better.

	The final resting place of your cast-off clothing https://aeon.co/videos/this-is-the-final-resting-place-of-your-cast-off-clothing	When people in the West throw their clothes away, their cast-offs often go on a journey east, across the oceans, to India's industrial interior. From the Kutch District of western India to the northern city of Panipat, garment recyclers turn into yarn the huge bales of clothes that come from people and places distinctly strange. With little exposure to Western culture other than the Discovery Channel, the garment recyclers rely on their imagination and the rumors that travel with the cast-offs to create an intriguing perspective on the West.
	Recycling in textile art: Five artists https://www.textileartist.org/recycling-in-textile-art/	Five amazing artists who literally turn trash into treasure in remarkable ways. From vintage fabrics to industrial waste, all these artists create with love and respect for their unusually sourced materials: - Zwia Lipkin - Ruth Singer - Elnaz Yazdani - Elizabeth Barrago - Julie Peppito

	Eco-Friendly Fiber Arts: 10 Sustainable Crafting Practices https://www.mywayacresfarmandfiber.com/blogs/news/eco-friendly-fiber-arts-10-sustainable-crafting-practices	1. Environmental Impact 2. Ethical Practices 3. How to Source Eco-friendly Sustainable Yarn and Fibers 4. The Impact of Natural Dyes 5. Reducing Waste in Fiber Arts 6. Sustainable Tools and Equipment 7. Energy-Efficient Practices in Fiber Arts 8. The Benefits of Upcycling and Recycling 9. Supporting Sustainable Brands and Businesses 10. Educating and Inspiring Others
	Recycling Old Garments https://www.alisonschwabe.com/weblog/?p=10402-	Australian Artist, Alison Schwabe's Blog Page Her blog is her artist's diary, where she writes on interesting and influential experiences such as exhibitions or workshops attended; and outlines and discusses some of the sample making to explore materials or techniques being considered for new work.
	Global Organic Textile Standards https://global-standards.org/	Global Standards combines science, independent verification, digital tools and global partnerships into one integrated system that helps businesses continuously improve. Rather than addressing individual sustainability topics in isolation, our standards connect environmental responsibility, social criteria, supply chain integrity and credible certification into one holistic system.
	K3n Clothtales https://www.youtube.com/@k3n.clothtales	Kathryn Chamber's YouTube videos featuring Slow Stitch. She is a textile artist who works with recycled and eco printed cloth. Kathryn has a large following on her YouTube channel on which she posts weekly with an annual project and snippets of life.

	Terista Leal https://teresitaleal.com/	A SAQA Artist living in Buenos Aires, South America with restricted resources. Throughout the 20th century, Latin American artists incorporated elements of movements such as Cubism and Surrealism, skillfully adapting them to local traditions to reflect their distinct cultural and social realities. Inspired by these artists, Terista makes her own interpretations.
	India Flint https://www.indiaflint.net/story	Gardener, forest wanderer & anthologist, stargazer & stitcher, botanical alchemist & string twiner, working traveller, dreamer, writer and the original discoverer of the now widely adopted eucalyptus ecoprint, dyeing for a living in the deep south of Australia
	Claudy Jongstra https://claudyjongstra.com/	A Dutch artist who uses raw, locally sourced organic materials, maintaining her own rare-breed sheep herd and utilizing natural botanical dyes like onion skin.
	Alice Burnhope https://www.aliceburnhope.com/	A London-based creator working from Cockpit Studios who blends natural dyeing, quilting, and waste materials with community-driven projects.
	Lynn Settrington https://lynnsettrington.co.uk/	Known for incorporating unconventional discarded items, such as plastic carrier bags and building-site debris netting, into large-scale community textile works.

	Kemi Ajose https://cockpitstudios.org/makers/kemi-ajose	A zero-waste knitwear designer who handcrafts wearable art strictly using yarns sourced from deadstock suppliers.
	Bonnie Peterson https://bonniepeterson.com/	Bonnie Peterson: An activist-artist who embroiders complex climate change data, global warming statistics, and topographic mapping onto eco-conscious fabrics like silk and velvet.
	Alexandra Kehayoglou https://alexandrakehayoglou.com/	An Argentine artist who hand-tufts large-scale carpets using raw, sustainable, and recycled wool to recreate vanishing natural landscapes and grasslands, urging viewers to reflect on human impact.
	Nerissa Cargill Thompson https://www.ncargillthompson.co.uk/	Based in Manchester, she transforms plastic trash, synthetic castoffs, and urban waste into textured fiber artworks and installations that map out the reality of coastal and plastic pollution.
	Nnena Kalu https://www.tate.org.uk/press/press-releases/nnena-kalu-wins-turner-prize-2025 https://www.culturetype.com/2025/12/11/groundbreaking-achievement-2025-turner-prize-goes-to-nnena-kalu-first-artist-with-learning-disability-to-win-prestigious-award/	In 2025, Nnema Kula was the first neurodivergent and non-verbal artist to win the Turner Prize. She works with cloth and yarn making large 3D installations and also paints. She is supported by an artist's commune, Action Space, in London