

# textile study group

artists and tutors sharing ideas imagination and skills

**Lois Blackburn**

**Contact email** [loisblackburn@textilestudygroup.co.uk](mailto:loisblackburn@textilestudygroup.co.uk)

**Website** <https://arthur-martha.com>

<https://twitter.com/arthurandmartha>

<https://www.facebook.com/arthur.martha.cic/>

<https://www.instagram.com/arthur.and.martha/>

**1. Relevant professional training and qualifications** BA Hons 1<sup>st</sup> Class Degree in Embroidered Textiles. Manchester Metropolitan University. 1988-1991

## **2. Professional experience**

Lois has been self-employed since 1991.

Her design work and illustrations have been commissioned for everything from public and private artworks, rugs, greeting cards, promotional materials, local and national newspapers, magazines and children's books.

Previous clients for illustrations include The Times Newspaper, The Spectator Magazine, MOJO magazine and The Big Issue. Her artwork is housed in public collections including Bankfield Museum Halifax and Leighton House Museum, Kensington. Her collaborations with arthur+martha are archived at Bury Art Museum, Manchester Archives+ the British Library and Derbyshire Archives. Two quilts are archived with The Quilters' Guild.

She has 19 years experience within the arts and health field. In 2006 with poet Philip Davenport, she set up the Community Interest Company arthur+martha.

The Skills and knowledge she has gained include: artistic direction, coordinating activities, curating exhibitions, editing and designing books and publications, publicity and promotion, managing budgets, cash flow, book keeping, training, strategic planning, fundraising, managing and recruiting volunteers, employing artists, managing and administrating projects, creating and maintaining websites and social media, liaising and collaborating with: galleries, community groups, councils, art officers and other bodies.

## **3. Professional practice**

### **Profile of teaching commitments**

Over the last 15 years Lois has concentrated on her work with arts organisation arthur+martha, creating art with marginalised people.

## **Exhibitions**

Lois has exhibited her artwork all over Britain, at over 50 galleries including: The Royal Academy Edinburgh, Smiths Gallery London, The Business Design Centre London, The Castle Gallery Inverness, The Royal Exchange Manchester, Castlefield Gallery Manchester, Bluecoat Display Centre Liverpool, Chelsea Craft Fair London.

Her collaborative work with arthur+martha has been exhibited in The National Gallery of Art, Vilnius, Lithuania, at the Houses of Parliament, People's History Museum, National Trusts Lyme Park, Manchester Central Library, The Royal Festival Hall, Imperial War Museum North and many other venues.

## **Publications**

Books about arts organisation arthur+martha featuring the collaborations of Lois Blackburn, books designed by Lois Blackburn.

2018 The warm /&/ the cold. arthur+martha poems and art.

2016 The Homeless Library. a catalogue of homeless lives, arthur+martha. Available as a free Ebook at <http://www.blurb.co.uk/ebooks/632146-the-homeless-library>

2016 Stitching the Wars. arthur+martha

<https://arthur-martha.com/portfolio/stitching-the-wars/>

2015 Making Memories. Techniques for prompting memories and putting them down in the form of playful art and poetry. arthur+martha

<https://arthur-martha.com/portfolio/making-memories-2012-15/>

2010 Patience. An insiders guide to surviving ill health, told in art and poetry . arthur+martha

You can see a collection of films about arthur+martha and the work of Lois Blackburn at <https://vimeo.com/arthurmartha>

## **4. Voluntary & Community Work**

Blackburn is a founder, Director and lead artist of the art organisation, *arthur+martha*, where she shares her skills and knowledge, collaborating with homeless and older people to make artwork, most recently a series of quilts.

arthur+martha have pioneered ways of working unique in arts and health.

They use experimental writing and art to help self-expression. They work with communities who are often marginalised, homeless people and older people, including those living with dementia. To have a voice and be heard is a powerful human need. By helping to achieve this they boost people's well-being and promote understanding in wider society.

2015-17 Their project *The Homeless Library* launched at The Houses of Parliament and the Southbank. *Stitching the Wars* continued their sequence of embroidered history quilts, with exhibitions 2016-17 across Derbyshire, the project received a Foundation Derbyshire Award. They presented evidence to an Arts and Health All Party Round Table at The House of Lords in 2016 and helped launch the subsequent major report in 2017.