

AMANDA HARAN | CONTEMPORARY COMMUNITY TEXTILE ARTIST

Amber Valley, Derbyshire, UK

Professional Summary

Contemporary community textile artist working with flax, heritage, sustainable fibres, community storytelling, and socially engaged making. My practice centres on participatory creative listening and textile processes that connect people with place, wellbeing, and shared identity, generating civic pride.

Selected Education & Professional Training

IOSH Managing Safely, HSQE	BSc Hons Textile Design & Design Management, UMIST
Level 3 Certificate in Counselling, Salford College	Lean On Artist Professional Development, Platform Thirty
Growing Slow Textiles, The Wild Dyery	Community Engagement & Inclusivity, Make/Shift
Nature Connectedness & Wellbeing, Derby Uni	Sustainable Textile Practices & Flax Processing, Flaxland
Carbon Literacy for Creatives, Creative Carbon UK	Evaluation for Arts, Culture & Heritage, Leeds Uni

Selected Employment

2026 to Present | Derbyshire Makes Artist, Bolsover & Heanor

2026 to Present | Arts Council & National Lottery Funded (Former Developing Creative Practice), Flax Research

2025 to Present | Creative Evaluator & Maker In Residence, Make/Shift & Derby Uni, Amber Valley

2023 to Present | Freelance Contemporary Community Textile Artist (East Midlands)

2021 to 2023 | Community Engagement Co-ordinator, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

2018 to 2023 | Freelance Contemporary Community Textile Artist (West Midlands)

2015 to 2019 | Self-Employed CAD Embroidery Designer & Manufacturer

2015 to 2016 | Early Years Website Co-ordinator, EYFS Resources

2004 to 2015 | Company Secretary (Complex Needs Supported Housing), TP Properties Housing Association

1995 to 2004 | Activities Organiser to Director of Operations (Complex Needs Supported Living), Paragon Care

Selected Community Projects & Textile Installations

Turner Prize 2021 & Coventry City of Culture Coventry Banner | Countywide civic programme implementation, large-scale collaborative textile installation at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, created with over 280 community groups and individuals on behalf of Array Collective (winners); cited in research papers as community (social prescribing) best practice and nominated for a number of awards; (plus other projects)

Community Flax Project | Hyper-local sustainable fibre growing and heritage-led initiative in home front garden. Awarded an Arts Council England National Lottery Project Grant to explore spinning and weaving techniques

Herbert Art Gallery Community Garden | Co-designed, built and planted by families and growers

Walking Forest | 10-year art project connecting activism, natural forest networks, and community

Factory Work | Heritage story gathering project seeking Derbyshire manufacturing workers

Creative & Professional Skills

Textile and fibre-based practice	Creative wellbeing and trauma-aware approaches
Historical research and story gathering to link projects to people, place, time, and heritage, promoting civic pride and neighbourhood links	Workshop design and delivery
	Intergenerational co-creation
	Project planning and evaluation