

MEET THE ARTISTS

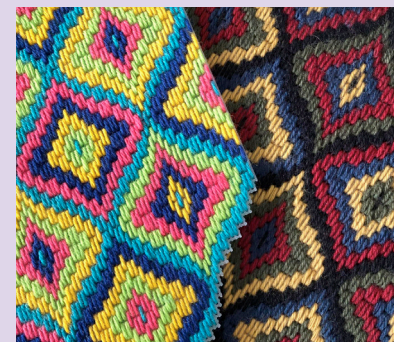


TINA
FRANCIS

Before becoming a tapestry maker I was a computer programmer and I worked on systems that kept planes in the sky, ships moving around the world, and getting water to your tap. I really enjoyed working with computers and creating systems that people could use easily, but after a while I decided that I wanted to make things that people could hold. I chose tapestry stitching because each stitch is just like a pixel!

I love colour, texture and printing and I combine these skills to create tapestry stitching kits and designs. I enjoy seeing my designs on different products such as trays, mugs and stationary too. I like screen printing because of the process behind it. Of course maths has always been my favourite subject and it really helps when I need to count the stitches in a design, to work out how much wool I need!

I believe that if you have a skill you should share it, if you can stitch you can travel the world because people will always need things mending. I love working on large scale tapestries with different groups across Birmingham and recently stitched with over 600 people on a tapestry that contained 1000 small bees!



www.tinafrancis.co.uk
Instagram @tinafrancistapestry
twitter @tinafrancis15



DEBOLETTE
CLARKE

Hi my name is Debolette and I was born in West Bromwich in the West Midlands. I enjoyed art and making things at school. I was always making things such as outfits for my dolls and paintings. I loved art and decided to go to art school when I was 16. At Art College I studied art and design and then went on to study fashion.

My skills are varied, as I'm also an art and design teacher, so my range of skills includes: leather work, sewing, painting, printmaking, jewellery and clay work. I like to make products from leather such as purses, wallets and bags and have recently started making things in fabric again.

I share my skills with others by showing people how to make things either in my studio in the Jewellery Quarter or popping up in other spaces such as museums, heritage spaces and classrooms. I share skills with both adults and children.



www.debolette.com
www.b18leather.co.uk
Instagram @debolettecreative & @b18leather
Twitter @deborettcreat1 @b18leather1



KIRSTY
HILLYER

As a kid I wanted to be a DJ, fashion designer, or artist. My mum believed in learning through seeing and experiencing the world, so growing up, whilst my Dad's wages as a bin man went on the bills, my mum worked to take us to see as many things as possible. I got to visit Florence in Italy and fell in love with Renaissance painting and architecture. This one day trip is what inspired me to study History of Art at university, so how did I end up as an artist and jewellery maker?

I worked for a community arts charity and after a few years I was the one making up the projects, working with people and doing it as my own business. My love of fashion never went away, and as my studio was based in the Jewellery Quarter, my love of jewellery and accessories grew. After making a piece of public art using a laser cutter with the designs of school children from Yardley, I saved up and bought my own and taught myself how to make laser cut jewellery. I still make art with people, I also make jewellery and hopefully people like it enough to buy it too.

I like to play with paint, colour and shape; combining this with my laser cutter to make big statement jewellery is my favourite thing to do! When I'm making with people I call myself 'We Are Frilly' - because it's not just about me, we are doing it as a group. When I make jewellery you can find it under Frilly Industries; because Frilly is all about fun, but making jewellery to sell is about industry and doing.



www.wearefrilly.com
www.frillyindustries.com
Instagram and Twitter @frillyind