



MYB.TEXTILES

### 'Garland' at Morton Young and Borland

4 June - 31 July 2015

MYB Textiles is pleased to announce an exhibition of recent paintings by Kathleen Mullaniff. Over the past ten months Kathleen has been drawing and painting from our collection of Scottish Lace. To accompany the exhibition Kathleen has also been working with Emma Dick to record the painting process and the textile pattern in an artist's book. Both Kathleen and Emma are researchers and teachers at Middlesex University in the School of Art and Design.

Kathleen and Emma are intrigued by the history of Scottish Lace and the pattern, texture and detail of the different designs produced by MYB Textiles.

Kathleen says, 'Last year I was making a series of paintings from a gift that my sister gave to me. This was a collection of lace dated from 1922. The collection came from an auction in Edinburgh and many of the samples had not been opened. I made a series of paintings and drawings from this collection, in particular the Chantilly Lace. It was at this time I discovered the MYB Textiles and made a site visit, I was inspired by the building and the operation of the looms and asked if I might stage an exhibition in the working mill. I like to work with veils of thin oil paint and lace has a fascinating structure; it is fragile, yet the stitches are physically strong and its transparency lets light filter through. After my first visit to MYB I started drawing and painting the from the intricate lace samples, discovering the fine detail and images embedded in the weave of the lace. I have used the textile samples to transform the minute detail of the lace structure into large paintings. I have been studying the designs of the patterns and have concentrated on drawing natural forms such as floral images and garlands. This has been an inspiring project to work on.'

Emma says, 'After our visit to MYB Textiles I was drawn to the history of the company and the looms used to produce the Scottish Lace. I am interested in fashion and textiles and have welcomed the opportunity to reflect and write about creative processes and how these are translated backwards and forwards between the notions of the 'handmade' and the 'industrial'. The use of the original Nottingham Lace Looms at MYB fascinates me, especially the networking of Victorian technology to the digital age. Taken in conjunction with Kathleen's handmade paintings, this project has brought multiple creative skills and technical processes together to complement one another and I have really enjoyed thinking about how to communicate these ideas in writing.'

Morton Young and Borland Ltd was founded in 1900 in the Irvine Valley of Ayrshire, Scotland. In 1913 the company invested in Nottingham Lace Looms, enabling them to present a larger variety of products to their clients. Over the past 20 years, Morton Young and Borland have developed the MYB Textiles name, adding a contemporary edge to their proud heritage. With a reputation built on the specialist skills and traditions prevalent in its products, maintaining these niche skills continues to be of paramount importance going forward. They thrive as the last remaining mill in the area due to their passion for continuing the lace and madras production tradition with the aid of new forms of product development and innovation.

Morton Young and Borland (MYB)  
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The exhibition is open to the public on:  
4 June 2015 from 10:00-17:00

Following the 4 June, viewing is by appointment only.

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