



WEAVERS
FACTORY

Joan Charnley Sunflowers

Feb 8th - March 1st, 2020

The Weavers Factory, 13 New Street, Uppermill, OL3 6AU
Tuesday - Sunday, 10am to 4pm | www.weaversfactory.co.uk



WEAVERS
FACTORY

Joan Charnley | Sunflowers

In the 1950s Joan drew a simple sunflower and used it to teach her students how to design repeat pattern textiles. Sixty years later we've taken that sunflower and created a brand new range of designs for the 21st Century, each one inspired by Joan and her extensive textile archive.

“I always remember seeing Joan's cotton sunflower cushion in her dining room and often wondered why it took pride of place on her dining room chair.

It was accompanied by a print of the same design that hung in her utility room, just above the sink where she'd pot her plants and make trays of tea for the garden.

Joan never mentioned what the sunflower design was or when she'd designed it, but after she died we found a folder of drawings and photographs documenting exactly why it was so important to her.

In the 1950s, whilst working as Vice Principle of Textiles at Great Yarmouth School of Art, Joan had drawn the sunflower and used it to teach her design students how to create repeat patterns.

The photographs were charming; there was Joan demonstrating how to screen print, and there were her

students, diligently recreating Joan's pattern and creating new designs.

So we thought it would be a fitting tribute to recreate Joan's sunflower design for the 21st century using digital design and contemporary print technology.

Each of the new designs feature Joan's original sunflower but with a twist. We've created repeat patterns, ditsy designs and random layouts, all using authentic 1950s colours and a vintage aesthetic. Each of the designs are available to buy as print-on-demand fabric or wallpaper, printed in Britain and available at the end of the exhibition.

On the top floor you can also see Joan's creative process, exclusive designs never seen before, plus her wonderful 'Wild Flowers of Saddleworth' series, kindly lent to us from Saddleworth Museum.

Profile

Name

Joan Charnley, 1928-2016

Born

Southport

Education

BA Hons Textile Design,
Manchester School of Art

Medium

Ink, paper, paint, screenprint

Subject

Textile design and
botanical art

Exhibitions

1961, Willmer House, Surrey

1966, Royal Yorkshire Show

1974, Snape Maltings

1974, Oldham Art Gallery

1976, Southport Art Gallery

1978, Overseas League,
London

1980, Harrogate Festival

1983, Saddleworth Festival

1993, RHS Flower Show

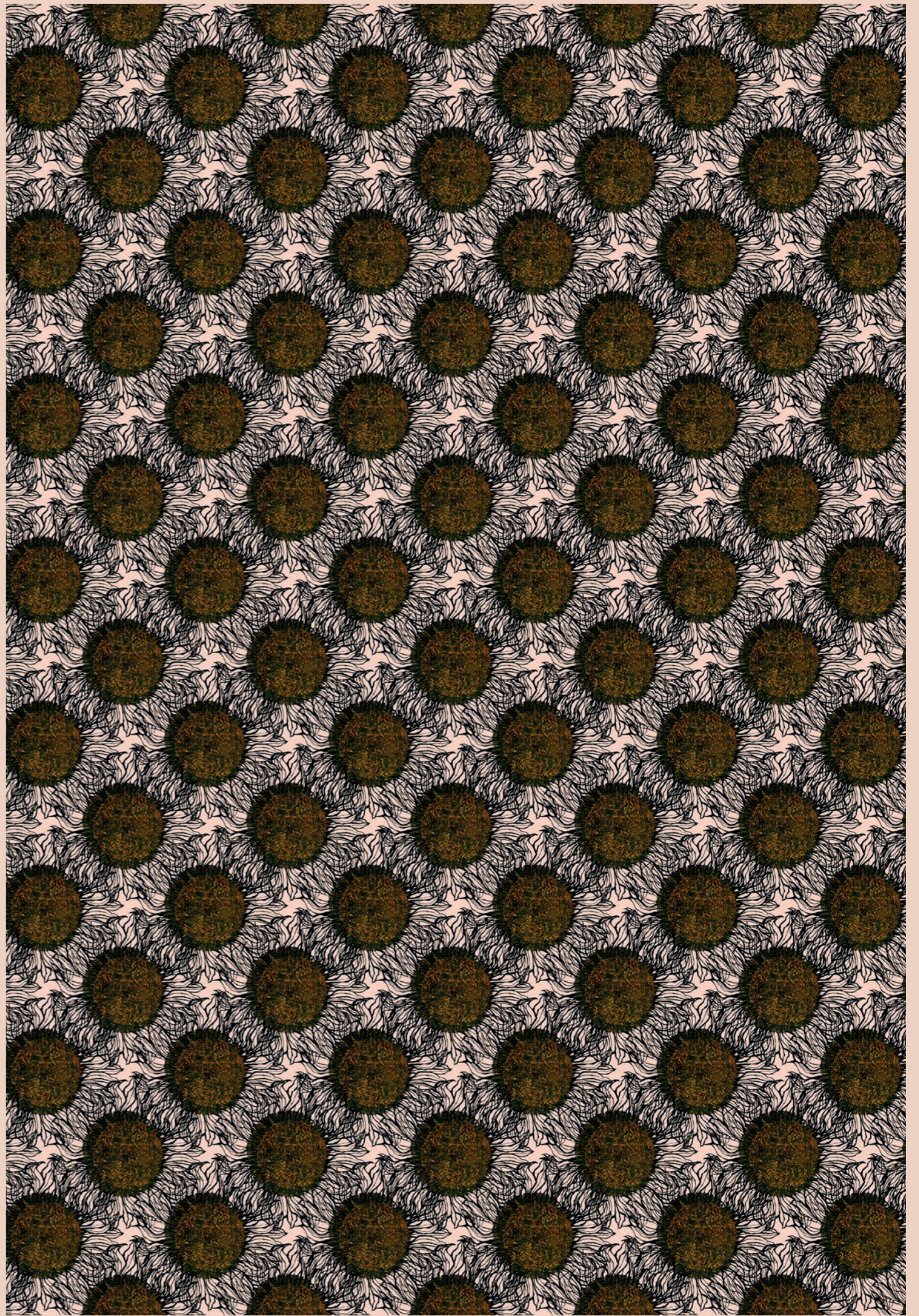
2019, Weavers Factory

Julian Bovis, Curator.

Joan
Charnley
with her
Manchester
School of
Art Degree
show textile
piece, 1955

Copyright
Joan
Charnley
archive





Exhibitions 2020

January

Joan Charnley Textile Prize

Manchester School of Art

Textile students Hannah, Warren and Meghan showcase new designs inspired by our patron Joan Charnley
Friday 24th Jan - Sunday 2nd Feb

February

Joan Charnley

Sunflowers

Joan's 1950s botanical designs are re-launched as a range of exciting new textiles for the 21st century
Saturday 8th Feb - Sunday 1st March

March

Anthony Marn

The Space Left Behind

After losing his parents to suicide, Anthony explores how art can become pivotal to the grieving process
Saturday 7th - Sunday 29th March

April

Barbara Sykes

The Human Condition

By adding comedic party hats to her drawings, Barbara reveals a frivolous side to her enigmatic portraits
Saturday 4th - Sunday 26th April

May

Rod Billington

A Light Exists in Spring

Landscape artist Rod explores the fragile relationship between nature and the built environment
Saturday 2nd - Sunday 31st May

June

Electra Costa

Monsters, Ink

Illustrator Electra uses humour from the darkest end of the spectrum to create familiar yet unsettling images
Saturday 6th - Sunday 28th June

July

Isabel Adonis

Scraps, Patches and Rags

Inspired by traditional folk art, Welsh painter Isabel uses fabric and collage to ask what it means to need a home
Saturday 4th - 26th July

August

Weavers Art Prize

Children of the Revolution

Manchester's best young artists under 18 respond to the theme of social, political and climate change
Saturday 1st - Sunday 30th August

September

Amy Mizrahi

The Art of Escapism

Amy moves into Surrealism with a vibrant new collection of challenging paintings and soft-sculpture
Saturday 5th - Sunday 27th September

October

Pat Kaye

Yorkshire Slip

After her sell-out show in 2019, Pat returns to the Weavers Factory with an exciting new range of pottery
Saturday 3rd October - Sunday 1st Nov

November

Lisa Clare

Printing Saddleworth

Printmaker Lisa re-invents the Saddleworth landscape with a group of all-female Manchester printers
Saturday 7th - Sunday 29th November

December

Christmas Ceramics

Mid-Century Design

3-floors of the most exciting vintage Mid-Century ceramic vases, bowls, plates and one-off pieces
Saturday 5th - Thur 24th December



WEAVERS
FACTORY

The Weavers Factory is a Grade-II listed contemporary art gallery in Saddleworth. Originally the home of 1950s textile designer Joan Charnley, it has been lovingly converted into a contemporary art space with a gift shop, tea bar garden and two galleries.

The Weavers Factory,
13 New Street, Uppermill,
Greater Manchester,
OL3 6AU

www.weaversfactory.co.uk

Curator - Julian Bovis
julian@weaversfactory.co.uk
Manager - Nigel Durkan
nigel@weaversfactory.co.uk
Gallery Assistants
Hayley Barker, Edward Gray
Patron - Joan Charnley