

Localisation!

It's a small world after all...

LAUNDRY

White linen, wooden pegs

LIVING

Fashion cities,
Amy Butler, Vietnam

LINEN

MAYER Peace Collection,
Ma Ke



Company accounts

An insight into the career choices of independent textile designer and makers. Meet them in person at the Selvedge Spring Fair... www.selvedge.org

Catherine Hammerton

In what way are you unlike other companies?

As a Designer-Maker there are never enough hours in the day so it helps that I have such a fantastic team of crafts people who help make the magic happen. By working solely with small British companies, not-for-profit organisations and piece-makers I know that my products are well made, as ethically as possible, on home soil. This is all very much in vogue at the minute, but has been integral to my business since the day I set up. **T: +44 (0) 207 803 8851, <http://catherinehammerton.com>**

Papastour

What was your best business decision?

Deciding to go it alone with the Papa Stour website! Five years ago, I could not find a way to market my Harris Tweed printed textiles to an International market, so I developed my own website to sell Scottish craft and design, and identified some bright designers to come on board. I think being one of the first websites to offer Scottish contemporary craft and design worldwide gave us a great advantage, although there are lots of boutique stores now online. **T: +44 (0)7922771424, www.papastour.com**

Grace Smith

What was your worst mistake or what would you do differently?

I don't really have any regrets, even if something hasn't gone quite to plan it usually leads to another opportunity in the future (hindsight is a wonderful thing – though at the time it can feel like your world is toppling around you). The one thing I would do differently is to be more decisive with certain aspects of the business. There are certain bits of equipment which would make my life a lot easier but sometimes it can be hard to part with the cash! **T: +44 (0)1835 824093, www.graceink.co.uk**

Rosie's Armoire

Do you derive all your income from your craft business and how long did it take to gain financial independence? I always envisaged that I would be involved in textiles in some way as there is a family history of sewing but over the years, alongside running my textile business, I have had to supplement my income with various unrelated part-time jobs. This has allowed me to gradually build and develop the business and fulfil my dream of becoming a full-time textile designer maker. **T: +44 (0)7906 777 371, www.rosiesarmoire.co.uk**

Parna

What is the satisfying aspect of running your own business?

The freedom and the autonomy more than makes up for any less positive aspects – and I've dealt with those anyway. My best decision was to employ a company to handle my despatch and warehousing, leaving me free to do the things I like and am better at. Overall being able to work from anywhere is a fantastic bonus for me. Of course, none of this would have been possible before the rise of the internet. **textiles@parna.co.uk, www.parna.co.uk**

