

Printing and Photography

Pauline Burbidge

"I like to think of my work changing and growing as nature does – continuously – without that change it would become dead and lifeless"

Pauline Burbidge

After a childhood spent on a Dorset farm, where her mother was always making clothes, Pauline Burbidge studied fashion and pattern cutting at the London College of Fashion and St Martin's School of Art and Fashion. At 25, she visited an exhibition of antique quilts and fell in love with the art form. In 1976, three years after graduating, she made her first art quilt. Over the last 40 years she has developed and refined her style, as demonstrated by these two pieces, *Aberdeen I* and *Honesty Skyline*.

***Aberdeen I* (1999)**

Example of Burbidge's early style, featuring traditional block piecing.

***Honesty Skyline* (2015)**

One of Burbidge's recent "Quiltscapes", which reflect the natural landscape around her Scottish home. Combines a variety of different printing techniques, including cyanotype and mono printing. Translucent seed pods from the Honesty plant (*Lunaria Annuua*) are used to print onto cotton lawn and silk organza. Beneath are fabric rubbings of red hot poker leaves, with more designs underneath. These layers are all hand stitched and hand-quilted over a layer of cotton wadding and backing material, so despite the modern appearance it has the three layers of a traditional quilt, keeping the connection with traditional practice.

Laura Kemshall

***You cast a spell on me* (2014)**

Kemshall also makes use of seed pods to print her fabric. Natural motifs reoccur in Kemshall's work, particularly strong vertical lines. This quilt makes use of seed pods from poppies, an enduring fascination for Kemshall.

Mary Mayne

***Laces* (1997)**

This work takes inspiration from a manmade everyday object: the soles of her son's shoes, left strewn across the floor on a daily basis are used to create the symmetrical printed pattern on this quilt, overlaid with applique and hand-quilting.



Cyanotype print of British Algae

Anna Atkins (1843)

Cyanotype (Blue printing)

Invented in 1842 by Sir John Herschel as one of the earliest forms of photography. Paper or cloth impregnated with Potassium Ferricyanide is exposed to sunlight, with some areas blocked off to create an image. When the material is washed in Potassium Ammonium Citrate, the unblocked areas turn vivid Prussian Blue.

Anna Atkins used the technique to produce scientific books of photography of ferns and algae (pictured above). Atkins is acknowledged as one of the world's first female photographers.