



Ann Sutton in her studio, c.1969. Photograph by Sam Sawdon – please contact the gallery for hi-res image and editorial clearance

Press Release

Ann Sutton

On From Weaving – *A Survey*

27th November 2021 – 15th January 2022

New Art Centre, Roche Court

The New Art Centre is delighted to announce a major survey of pioneering British textile artist Ann Sutton (born 1935).

The exhibition will feature works from every decade of Sutton's career, from her early days as a student at the Cardiff College of Art, through the 1960s and 1970s when she worked on both two- and three-dimensional textiles, and on to recent painted works, made after Sutton sold her looms in 2010 – a radical act for someone so feted as a textile artist and yet a move entirely in keeping with Sutton's uncompromising attitude as an artist. As Richard Howells, Emeritus Professor of Visual Culture at King's College London, writes, Ann Sutton 'has always been moving resolutely upstream, against the flow... but doing so with a heady combination of freedom and restraint.'

This survey exhibition is a response to the recent 'discovery' of craft as an art form in its own right (and not simply a subset of a wider field of 'artistic making') - something that Sutton has fought for from the outset of her career, preferring always to be described as a 'maker' rather than a 'weaver'.



LEFT: *Length*, 1955, handwoven cotton – the earliest work included in *On From Weaving* from Ann's student days in Cardiff; she always favoured weaving, where form emerged in an architectural manner.

CENTRE: *Disc Knit*, 1968, knitted cotton and PVA.

RIGHT: *Logical Weave Footstool*, 1975, machine knitted wool and Dacron filling – made on an early 20th century sock knitting machine restored by the artist and used in all her 'tubular' work.

Photographs © Ann Sutton, Courtesy of the New Art Centre and Roche Court Sculpture Park – high res. images available on request.

The exhibition will highlight Sutton's endless experimentation as she pushes the boundaries of what can be 'woven' (plastic, linen, cotton and nylon monofilament) and how the necessary geometry of warp and weft can become the starting point for a wider enquiry into systems, pattern, order, balance and harmony. The show will also demonstrate her experimentation with colour, often in contrast to a more formal poetry of monochrome.

The scale of works on display will also run the full gamut of her oeuvre, from floor-to-ceiling hangings through to essays in structure only six centimetres square.



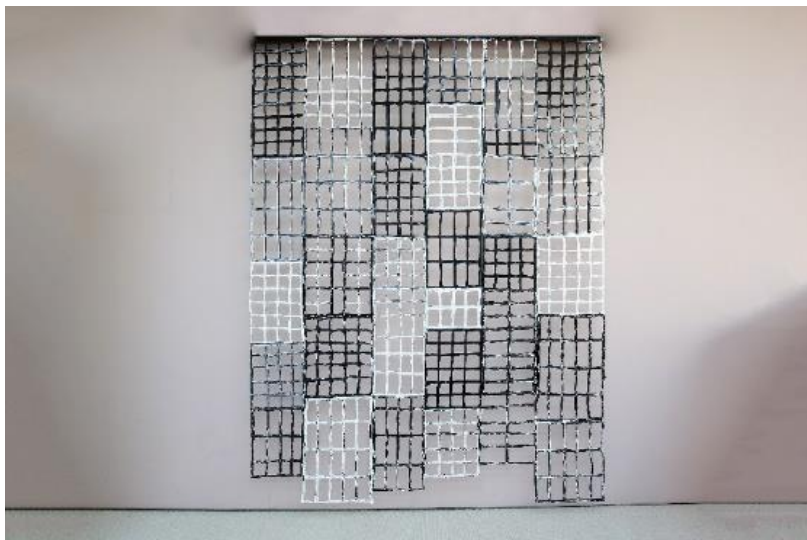
Left - Ann Sutton in her studio, c. 1969, working on her sock-making machine - photograph by Sam Sawdon

Right - Ann Sutton in her studio, 2020 - photograph © Jane Mote

Please contact the gallery for hi-res images and editorial clearance

On From Weaving intends to bring Sutton's work to a wider audience and is inspired by the acquisition in 2021 by Tate, through the New Art Centre, of four important woven pieces from the mid-1960s, as well as the recent display of her work in the Crafts Council newly opened galleries.

Some works in the exhibition are on loan, from the artist and from private collections, but the majority are for sale.



Paint in Space Black and White, 2019, acrylic paint on nylon – one of the 'post-loom' works in the exhibition which still very much relate to Sutton's interests in pattern, repetition, structure and 'in and out' spaces.

Photograph © Ann Sutton, Courtesy of the New Art Centre and Roche Court Sculpture Park – high res. images available on request.

Notes to Editors

Ann Sutton's work is held in numerous public and private collections, including Tate, Victoria & Albert Museum, Crafts Council, National Museum of Wales, Museum of Modern Art, Helsinki and National Museum, Stockholm

In 1991, she was awarded an MBE and was appointed a Senior Fellow at the Royal College of Art in 2005.

The **New Art Centre** was established in Sloane Street, London in 1958.

From its inception, the gallery championed young and emerging artists, and this remains a core ambition – alongside continuing to show those artists, now in mid- or late- career, who first exhibited with us decades ago.

In 1994, the gallery moved from London to its current location at Roche Court, East Winterslow in Wiltshire. The house was originally built in 1804 for the family of Admiral Nelson.

The park and woodlands which surround the house enable us to focus on exhibiting outdoor sculpture making the New Art Centre a pioneer of the commercially-run sculpture park in the UK.

Since moving in 1994, we have commissioned Stephen Marshall to add four indoor exhibition spaces that have won several international architectural awards. This expansion has enabled us to stage a closely-curated exhibition programme of modern and contemporary painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics and textiles.

From the outset, the New Art Centre has been interested in education and we have invited the exhibiting artists to work with us on an extensive programme of tours, lectures and workshops based on the works in the gallery exhibitions and sculpture park.

The Roche Court Educational Trust also runs the highly-acclaimed [Articulation Prize](#) which encourages teenagers all over Britain to look, think and speak about art. The Final in 2022 will be held at the National Gallery, London, judged by Neil MacGregor OM.

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