

## **ALISON ELLEN**

### **Work made**

Hand knitted jumpers, jackets, waistcoats, hats and cushions, with interest in constructing garments by knitting in different directions, and finding stitches that manipulate the fabric and create textures. I design wearable, varied shapes, led by the natural inclination of the stitches, using mostly wool with some silk and also hemp, dyeing my yarns for added interest and richness of colour. Discussing with people as they try on garments has also made a major contribution to my approach in designing for different body-shapes.

### **Training**

1967-70 Surrey Institute of Art and Design, Farnham, BA textile design  
1965-7 Dartington College of Arts

### **Memberships**

Crafts Council register  
Southern Arts Index of makers  
Sussex Guild of Craftsmen

### **Articles**

1993 The Good Yarn Show, Anglia TV  
2011 Interview and short workshops for Knit1TV

### **Books**

Alison Ellen: KNITTING, STITCH-LED DESIGN, Crowood Press 2015  
Alison Ellen: KNITTING, COLOUR STRUCTURE AND DESIGN, Crowood Press 2011  
Alison Ellen HANDKNITTING, NEW DIRECTIONS, Crowood Press 2002  
Alison Ellen THE HANDKNITTER'S DESIGN BOOK David & Charles 1992

### **Marketing**

1986-present, selling through craft fairs, galleries and open studios.

### **Exhibitions**

2016 'Soft Engineering', touring exhibition with Ann Richards and Deirdre Wood:-  
SIT textiles symposium, Stroud, and NCCD Sleaford, Lincs  
2014 group exhibition at Bury Court, Farnham  
2011 Maiwa textiles symposium, Vancouver  
2010 Art in Action, Waterperry, Oxford  
2009 Jointure Studio, Ditchling  
2008 Winchester Discovery Centre  
2007 solo, Susanne Wolf gallery, Lewes  
2005 Mall Galleries, London, with Society of Designer Craftsmen  
2003 solo at Hitchcock's Gallery, New Alresford  
2000 High Fibre, Devon Guild of Craftsmen  
1999 Knitwear, Design and Innovation, Black Swan Gallery, Frome  
1997 Chelsea Crafts Fair  
1996 Off the Top of Your Head, Angel Row Gallery  
1994 solo exhibition, Bank Gallery, Chobham  
1992 Trelissick Gallery, Truro  
1990 Cirencester Workshops  
1988 Tex-styles, Smiths gallery, London  
1986 Knitting, a Common Art, touring Crafts Council exhibition

### **Teaching**

2016 'Gavstrik' knitting symposium, Kiruna, Sweden  
2015 Weavers, Spinners and Dyers summer school  
2015 Maiwa textiles symposium, Vancouver  
1989 – present, short courses at West Dean College, and lectures and workshops with knitting and textile groups  
1973-85, running knitting projects on the BA Textiles course at University college of the arts, Farnham