



Warp & Weft

Jessica Hemmings
Bloomsbury
ISBN 978 1 4081 3444 3
£19.99

This is a fantastic book. Heavily illustrated, it gives an introduction to many of the innovative weave designers who

have emerged over the past 10 years or so. It is organised in six sections: threads, light, motion, sound, emotion and community, each of which presents the work of at least half a dozen artists and makers working in that area. For example, motion includes work by Maia Blaisse (Netherlands), Barbara Layne (Canada), Zane Berzina (Latvia), Maggie Orth (USA), Philippa Brock (UK) and Grethe Sørensen (Denmark) among others.

Although the book includes weavers working in fashion and interiors, there is a strong bias towards art and installations. There are some notable names missing, but overall this is an excellent overview of a diverse range of contemporary weavers. Hemmings writes clearly about each weaver's area of interest and the processes they use, alongside photographs and some technical details of their work.

It's not perfect: it has a very Western perspective with few examples of work from weavers in Asia, Africa or South America,

and arguably it could have benefited from another chapter around sustainability and ecological issues. These are minor issues however. For anyone studying woven textiles or just looking for an introduction to what's currently happening in the field, this is a great resource.

Theo Wright, Online Guild