

NEWS RELEASE: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014



## India Street: exploring a legacy

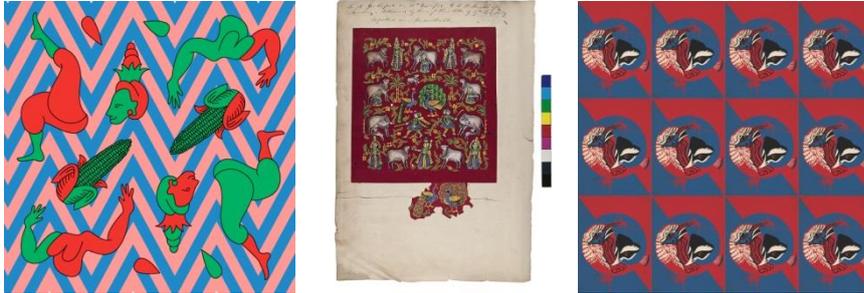


Image credits (l to r): 'Work in Progress' by Gabriella Di Tano, page from Turkey red sample book (©National Museums Scotland with kind permission of Coats plc), 'Composition in Indigo and Turkey' by People Tree.

**As the Commonwealth baton passes from India to Scotland, a new exhibition brings together designers from both countries for an international collaboration which explores the legacy of Scotland's Turkey red dye industry. India Street forms part of the launch events programme by Gayfield Creative Spaces in Edinburgh.**

**India Street** takes its name from a terrace in the Vale of Leven in the west of Scotland which backs on to a former factory, once the biggest producer of Turkey red fabrics in the world with India its biggest export market. The exhibition examines *The Bombay Sample Book*, now held in the National Museums Scotland archive, which contains some of the many designs printed on to this signature red fabric.

Designers from Scotland and India are producing contemporary graphic and textile work in critical response to *The Bombay Sample Book*, with new imagery, form and meaning inspired by the original, bright, colourful fabrics.

Curator Katy West said, "As well as presenting these newly commissioned print-based designs, the exhibition poses the question why such a fashionable international industry died out in the west of Scotland. It also asks what we can learn from it to make textile design more sustainable today."

India Street will also contribute to the conversations in the Gayfield Twilight Talks series. The exhibition will extend to online platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Tumblr, so it can be accessed from around the world.

**ENDS**

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Background:

In the 19th century, Turkey red's vibrant, patterned fabrics were produced in Scotland and exported around the world, with India their biggest market. The fabrics were produced using a technique similar to Indian indigenous block printing but in a less laborious and more cost-effective way. As fashions and dye processes changed, the Scottish industry fell into decline and closed its doors for the last time in the early 1960s. Block printing remains a thriving industry in India and now exports around the world.

### The designers:

Recent Glasgow School of Art graduate **Gabriella di Tano** designs print for events and publications from her Riso-print-based studio, Risotto. [www.gabriellamarcella.com](http://www.gabriellamarcella.com)

Glasgow-based **Emlyn Firth** of A Visual Agency produces simple, modernist-inspired design for digital communication and print. [www.avisualagency.com](http://www.avisualagency.com)

**Sanjay Garg of Raw Mango**, based in Delhi, produced exclusive saris for Delhi's high-society women using traditional methods and bright palettes. [www.rawmango.in](http://www.rawmango.in)

**Lokesh Ghai**, based in Ahmedabad with a Masters degree from the Manchester Metropolitan University, works with embroidery and hand skills to produce individual works each with a specific social context

**Charlotte Linton** specialises in scarves with exotic imagery from around the world for her eponymous label and under the guise of Ermantrude the Explorer. She also works as accessories designer for Marc Jacobs. [www.charlottelinton.com](http://www.charlottelinton.com)

**Orijit Sena and Gurpreet Sidhu** are People Tree, a social enterprise based in Connaught Place in the heart of Delhi selling a range of objects and garments, which they have designed or commissioned, with a Copyleft and Fairtrade approach. [www.peopletreeonline.com](http://www.peopletreeonline.com)

**Laura Spring** produces screen-printed bags and accessories in bright block colours and thematic editions under her own name. She works from her North Glasgow studio and stocks stores around the world. [www.lauraspring.co.uk](http://www.lauraspring.co.uk)

### Available for interview:

Creative Director of Gayfield Creative Spaces Dr John Ennis, curator of India Street Katy West, Scottish-based designers Gabriella di Tano, Emlyn Firth and Laura Spring, and Charlotte Linton (from July).

The Indian designers are available for interview by email, phone or Skype. Lokesh Ghai will be in Scotland from late July.

### Opening dates and times:

**India Street** runs from Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August to Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Opening times are Thursday to Sunday, 11am to 6pm. Admission is free.

India Street is sponsored by Gayfield Creative Spaces, Creative Scotland and the British Council.

The **Twilight Talks** series takes place every Thursday from 7<sup>th</sup> August to 11<sup>th</sup> September from 6pm to 8pm at various venues. Free tickets can be secured via the Twilight Talks Eventbrite link at [www.gayfield.co.uk](http://www.gayfield.co.uk)

Twilight Talks are sponsored by Gayfield Creative Spaces with support from Creative Scotland.

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