

**Press Release 11 April 2019**  
**Major New Textile Work by Orains**

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**About**

Orains is the arts and design partnership between Pieter van der Werf and Fiona Page. We are based on the shores of Loch Riddon situated on the West Coast of Scotland. We create textile art made by hand with Scottish wool. We gather wool from local farms, wash with our hill water, dry with firewood and use natural dye. The ownership of the craft process offers provenance and authenticity to our work and is as important to us as the finished designs. Orains is an accredited member of the Green Crafts Initiative and is listed in the directories of the Crafts Council UK and Craft Scotland.

The new textile work exhibited at the Art Space, Cass Art Glasgow from 11 to 23 April introduces the extensive use of dye, geometric patterns and the use of Shibori dye technique using felted wool.

The leading piece for the exhibition at Cass Art in Glasgow is “Granularity”, a 5 metre square single piece of hand rolled felt. The piece is a composition of distinguishable sections of colour way using natural dyes including heather flower, Scottish thistle (gathered in the fields around the Orains studio) together with natural madder and indigo. The deep blue 'knots' in the top section could be seen as notes on a musical score. The orange madder-dyed wool dipped in indigo creates various purples and greyish brown hues. The dyeing process started in the summer of 2018 and lasted through the winter.

New lighting using LED technology is shown, including “Andy’s”, a light installation made with the ubiquitous and fibrous Scottish Blackface. The wool is hand washed and felted after which Shibori dye technique is used before surrounding the piece with sheep wire fencing.

Pieter commented: “Having the opportunity to exhibit at Cass Art Glasgow allows us to show our large scale work. We have been able to develop new and alternative ways of using wool and colour, creating contemporary products with provenance for interiors. We are aware of the need to relook at what is around us and what can be reused - we are particularly thrilled to showcase our work using Scottish Blackface wool, so iconic to Scotland”.

**Bio**

**Pieter's** visual arts practice spans the last 30 years producing conceptual art programmes, making sculptures and leading creative content in development projects. He's exhibited at Sculpture by The Sea (Sydney, Australia, 2006) using seaweed as a core material and focusing on plastic waste in the Pacific. **Fiona's** international career focuses on social and environmental sustainability in business and design, and includes business support in the UK together with creative community projects on the West Coast of Scotland.

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