**Amy Bonsor – Artist Statement**

My practice has developed from a background in textiles and embroidery. My abstract, textural pieces are inspired by a fascination with pattern, and often draw from nature. Particular inspiration is taken from macro and microscopic imagery and a closer look at stone walls, tree bark, lichen and moss. Key themes run throughout my making process including repetition, transition and changing surfaces. Finished pieces are highly tactile; reliefs draw the viewer in to view from different angles and it can be difficult to resist running a finger across the intricate surfaces. The work often has a sense of movement, whether this is through physical manipulation of sculptural pieces or simply the way a surface changes across a two-dimensional piece.

I am increasingly interested in exploring a wider range of themes within the inspiration for my practice. Recent projects have included collaborations with Scientists in the areas of social insect biology and green chemistry and responding in a more abstract way to the theme of restriction brought about as a result of the global pandemic.

My current body of work uses a variety of paper qualities for both sculptural and relief outcomes. The weight and texture of the chosen material informs construction methods and pattern as well as the overall feel of a piece. Subtle variations are achieved by hand dying, painting, printing or hand drawing and carefully selecting and composing the ‘units’ to construct a form or surface. Careful selection of elements and construction using hand and machine stitch are approached methodically to create gentle transitions and undulating forms.

I am a member of the Leicester Society of Artists, and was awarded the George Pickard prize at their annual exhibition in 2021. I have exhibited in a range of locations nationally in group exhibitions and have had a solo exhibitions in Leicester at the LCB depot and in Somerton at ACE Arts. I have worked to commission for public and private clients, including a large-scale sculptural textile piece for Bilston Craft Gallery’s tenth birthday exhibition and small-scale tactile pieces which form part of a collection within Leicestershire for sensory exploration. I exhibit in, and am part of the committee for Art House, a Leicester based open houses art trail.