

Ptolemy Mann Britain b. 1972

'Colour is my obsession.'

Through a unique process of extremely refined hand dyeing and weaving I have been able to capture powerful 'colourfields' within a constructed surface. Each thread echo's a painted line. Intelligent colour theory underpins an emotional exploration of intuitive colour.'



Installation view of *Circadian Rhythm* by Ptolemy Mann; site-specific commission for the 9th floor restaurant in the Blavatnik building, which has a woven brick façade, at the Tate Modern, London.

Ptolemy Mann Biography

Ptolemy Mann established her studio after graduating from Central Saint Martins and the Royal College of Art in 1997. Her unique approach to hand-dyeing and weaving wall-based artworks has evolved over a twenty-five-year period. She dyes the long skeins of thread and then weaves them on a loom, embedding colour into the cloth itself. Exquisite dynamics of colour move across their fine surface, creating a painterly sweep. Mann makes large-scale pieces that demonstrate a deep understanding of craftsmanship and precision through an abstract narrative. The term 'chromatic minimalism' has been applied to her work, and abstract expressionism and architecture are crucial influences.

In recent years, Mann has been making huge gestural paintings on watercolour paper and canvas exploring the connections between thread and pigment. Mann is interested in the relationships between colours and their affective potential. For her, painting is an expression of the material and emotional worlds. In 2021 Mann made the bold decision to combine her weaving and painting practices in the *Thread Paintings*, applying spontaneous brushstrokes of acrylic paint directly onto a carefully hand-woven surface. Optical effects and natural phenomena inspire her to explore the possibilities of her chosen materials: dye, thread, paper and paint. Through their rapid and/or laborious application, she creates a multi-layered meditation on light and colour.

In 2019 Mann was commissioned by the Tate Modern Gallery in London to create a site-specific woven triptych called *Circadian Rhythm*. In addition, she has completed many site-specific art installations and has exhibited worldwide. She lectures regularly throughout the UK and abroad, writes for the magazine *Selvedge*.

Education

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| 1995-1997 | Royal College of Art, London
Masters Degree in Constructed Textiles specialising in Woven Textiles. |
| 1992-1995 | Central St Martins College of Art & Design, London
Bachelor of Arts, Hons. Degree in Textile Design - Specialising in Woven Textiles. |
| 1991-1992 | Maidstone College of Art - Foundation |

Selected Commissions and Collections

2018	St Peters Glass Artwork – 170msq Printed Glass for a Modern Church, London, UK
2017	A Ray of Colour & Light, Digital Print Textile Art, Rug, Colour Consultancy. London, UK Bristol Royal Infirmary, Sanctuary Space, 12 Textile Artworks, Bristol, England
2016	Stanhope Plc; Chromaticity, Series of 8 Panels, London, England
2014	Beyond the Sea, Britannia Cruise Ship Commission
2008	St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, Save The Baby Unit, England Vertex Feilden + Mawson Architects Commission
2007	Hilton Hotel Park Lane, with the Manser Practice, England
2006	Hilton, Geneva, Switzerland Glaxo Smith Kline Commission The Pride of Hawaii Cruise Ship
2004	Bacon Hewitt Woodrow Commission
2003	New Open University Library Building Commission
2002	Queen Mary 2 Cruise Ship
1999	Coventry Cathedral Commission, England
1996	KPMG Commission

Selected Exhibitions | Solo

2014	<i>Thread Paintings</i>, Taste Contemporary, Cromwell Place, London, UK
2023	UNCONSCIOUS COLOR – Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach, Florida, USA
2022	<i>THRESHOLDS</i> , Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach, Florida and New York City, NY, USA
2019	<i>Circadian Rhythm</i> , site specific installation, Tate Modern, London, England
2019	BAUHAUS / HANDWERK, Gallery Lau, Munich, Germany <i>ALBEDO</i> , London, UK
2011 - 2012	The Architecture of Cloth, Colour and Space, year-long touring exhibition at Ruthin, Dovecot, Aram and Harley Galleries finishing at Gloucester Cathedral
2010	<i>Chromatic Minimalism</i> , Munich, Germany

Selected Exhibitions | Group

2022	The Blue Hour, Officinet, Copenhagen, Denmark
2022	The Golden Hour, Gallerie Lene Bilgrav, Aarhus, Denmark
2022	artgenève [represented by Taste Contemporary], Geneva, Switzerland

- 2021 ***Odd and Even – A Collection, Maison Louise Carré, Paris, France [presented by Taste Contemporary]***
- 2021 *2000 Years of Abstraction, Paul Hughes Fine Arts, Maiden Bradley Chapel, Somerset, UK*
- 2020 ***Harvest Moon, Taste Contemporary, Geneva, Switzerland***
artgenève [represented by Taste Contemporary], Geneva, Switzerland
- 2019 ***Repeat [presented by Taste Contemporary with Rear Window], London, UK***
Five Cubed [presented by Taste Contemporary], La Fonderie Kugler, Geneva, Switzerland
MIART two person show [represented by Taste Contemporary], Milan, Italy
artgenève [represented by Taste Contemporary], Geneva, Switzerland
- 2018 *The Most Real Thing, Textile and Sculpture Exhibition, Roche Court @ The New Art Centre*
Lasting Impressions, National Craft and Design Gallery, Kilkenny, Ireland
- 2014 *Crafted, The Royal Academy, London, England*
- 2013 *Modern Makers At Chatsworth House, presented by Sotheby's, England*
- 2010 *Inspired By – The Legacy Of Anni Albers, Ruthin, Wales*
- 2009 *Significant Colour, Aram Gallery*
- 2007 *Hue Line And Form, curated by Peter Ting, Contemporary Applied Art, London, UK*
- 2006 *The London Art Fair 2005/6 And 2007 With Adrian Sassoon, England*
- 2005 *Scope, New York, USA*
- 2004 *Collect, V&A Museum, London, England*
- 2003 *Ptolemy Mann, Textiles & Bob Crooks, Glass, Contemporary Applied Art, London, UK*
- 1999 *Design Resolutions, Royal Festival Hall, London, England*
- 1998 *Decorative Arts Today 1998, Bonhams, London, England*

Selected Awards

- 1997 Crafts Council Setting Up Grant
- 2009 Arts Council Grant
- 2011 Homes and Gardens Best Fabric Designer of the Year
Arts Council Grant

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