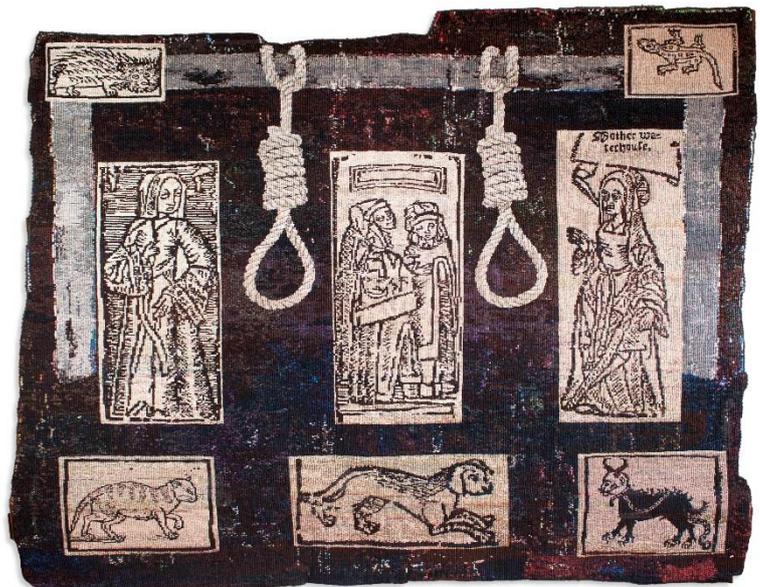


## Certaine Wytches

Fear, Myth and Magic

A touring exhibition of recent work by Anne Jackson

Opening venue:  
Devon Guild of Craftsmen, Riverside  
Mill, Bovey Tracey, Devon TQ13 9AF  
23 March – 6 May 2019



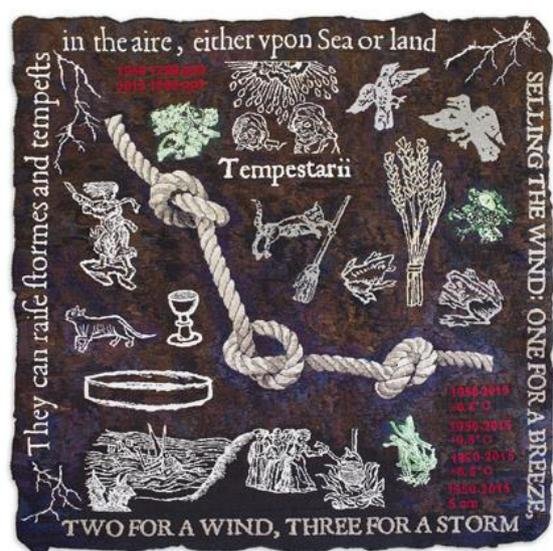
Through a series of large and small-scale knotted tapestries *Certaine Wytches* explores themes surrounding the idea of witchcraft and historic witch-persecution across Europe, both as commemoration and as a metaphor for our contemporary fears.

The work derives from detailed historical research, using original witch-trial documents and populist pamphlets of the Early Modern period (circa 1500–1800). Anne's tapestries bring to life a dark period of European history with resonances of what is happening in contemporary societies. The voices of the persecuted women are woven into the striking tapestries and Anne's research and its sources are explained and featured on wall-texts/panels accompanying the individual works.

The word **witch** often carries a negative charge signifying an outsider who is seen as frightening or difficult. She is an ambiguous figure, seen by some as the wielder of occult power and some as the healer and protector. This has often been met by suspicion and violence.



Anne comments:



*"For some time, I have been pursuing a long-term project, entitled "The Witchcraft Series". Through it I am seeking to represent the power that the idea of "the witch" holds in Western culture, both as metaphor for our fears, and as historical representation of social injustice towards women.*

*I deploy historical texts and original illustrations, along with contemporary scientific and cultural references, to depict the stories of individual women, or to comment on contemporary attempts to exert control over our world and our own lives."*

This series of contemporary tapestries attempts to ground these ideas in images and texts from Early Modern witch-hunting pamphlets with reference to authentic magic spells and symbols. The exhibition is also intended to commemorate the individual women who were caught up in the injustices of their times.

*Certaines Wytches* will juxtapose the narratives played out in these contemporary tapestries with authentic historical artefacts from the Museum of Witchcraft and Magic in Boscastle, Cornwall.

### **Additional information:**

This exhibition is part of Anne's project, "*The Witchcraft Series*". The inspiration for this project was a plaque in Rougemont Gardens in Exeter, in memory of '*The Devon Witches*'. The first three named on the plaque were Temperance Lloyd, Susannah Edwards and Mary Trembles, known as "The Bideford Witches". They were tried and executed between 1682 and 1685. They were charged with sorcery or witchcraft on the basis of accusations which to modern ears would be dismissed as malicious gossip or hearsay. Lloyd was accused of causing the death of several persons through the black arts to which she confessed. The other two were convicted of causing sickness through witchcraft. A fourth "witch", Alice Molland, was also tried and sentenced to death at the same time, though it seems no documentary evidence of her actual execution has been found.

Alongside these thought provoking works there will be a number of additional events, including a day of artistic and academic discussion at The University of Exeter on 24th April. Free drop-in workshops 'Make a Witch's Broomstick' 9th April and 'Exploring the Vertues (and Vices) of Herbes' 13th April, and 'Witch' a dramatisation by Circle of Spears 2nd May.

This exhibition is supported by The Heritage Lottery Fund.

Image 1: Knotted tapestry; cotton, linen, synthetic yarns '*Certaines Wytches, Chelmsford, Essex 1566*' by Anne Jackson. 195 x 156 cm. Photo Mei Lim. Image 2: Anne Jackson at work. Photo Charlie Werner. Alongside Knotted tapestry; cotton, linen, synthetic yarns '*Tempestarium Storm-Raisers*' by Anne Jackson. 170 x 164cm

### **Notes for Editors/Press Contact:**

For high resolution images and further details, including accompanying events, contact: [anna.trussler@crafts.org.uk](mailto:anna.trussler@crafts.org.uk) / [katie@katiehonor.co.uk](mailto:katie@katiehonor.co.uk) at Devon Guild of Craftsmen or artist Anne Jackson [annejackson.smirnoff@btopenworld.com](mailto:annejackson.smirnoff@btopenworld.com) [www.annejackson.co.uk](http://www.annejackson.co.uk) [www.crafts.org.uk](http://www.crafts.org.uk)

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**Devon Guild of Craftsmen:** Based in Bovey Tracey, the Devon Guild is a popular contemporary crafts venue and charity based in Devon (130,000 visitors annually) The hub of local and creative communities, the Guild also supports 270 Members all based in the South West. With a reputation and influence that extends nationally, the exhibitions and events are fun, open to all, inclusive and inspiring. They run an acclaimed educational outreach programme to schools and communities and house two galleries and a shop with an exciting range of constantly changing displays. There's a lively, friendly café with rooftop terrace, alongside the River Bovey. The Devon Guild is involved in two popular annual festivals that have helped put Bovey Tracey on the map: **The Contemporary Craft Festival** in June and **Nourish Festival** of food, music and craft every September. [www.crafts.org.uk](http://www.crafts.org.uk)