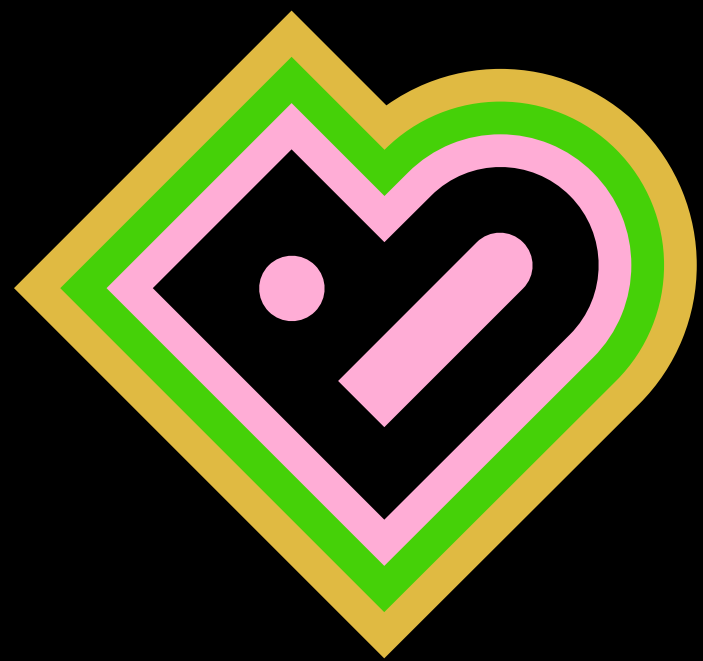


BRADFORD MADE

We Will Sing

Fabrics of the Future

For ages 14-18
(KS4 and KS5 learners)



BRADFORD 2025
UK City of Culture



We Will Sing

Fabrics of the Future

Ann Hamilton, one of America's most distinguished visual artists, has created a powerful new installation for Bradford 2025 inspired by the district's extraordinary textile heritage.

We Will Sing is the first major work created by Hamilton in the UK for more than 30 years, and the first time all three spaces on the vast top floor of Salts Mill have been combined to present a single artwork.

We Will Sing is a work of memory and imagining. Drawing on the origins of the textile processes that once filled this huge space, Hamilton's site-responsive installation weaves together voice, song and printed word in a material surround made from raw and woven wool sourced from local textile companies H Dawson, based at Salts Mill, and William Halstead, which celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2025.



Activity at a Glance

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Find out about Bradford's wool heritage, research the unique properties of wool and its usefulness as a fibre of the future.

Respond to a creative design brief from the Bradford based international wool merchant, H.Dawson.

You will need:

- H.Dawson design brief (included in this pack)
- Online access for research and mood boarding
- Your choice of art materials or digital software for completing the design brief

Approximate session times:

- Research and planning 1-2 hours
- Design task 1-2 hours

Key words:

Worsted, Sustainable, Biodegradable, Insulation, Ethical Sourcing, Traceability, Adaptation

Recommended age:

For ages 14-18 (KS4 and KS5 learners)

Links to:

Product Design / Textiles / Art / Literacy / Local Learning Careers / Heritage

We Will Sing by Ann Hamiltona, © David Lindsay.



Why is wool so important to the history and heritage of Bradford?

What do you already know about this history?

Is wool still important in the city today?

Start by exploring this blog from Bradford Museums and Galleries: Built of Wool: Worsted Collection.

[Bradford District Museums & Galleries](#)
– Built of Wool: Worsted Collection 

Find five key facts about Bradford's wool heritage to share with your group.

Next, take a look at H.Dawson's website.

[H.Dawson](#) 

H.Dawson is a Bradford business with 150 years of history, based in Saltaire. They have had a big role in the history and heritage of wool in Bradford, and they are also a forward-looking business who firmly believe that wool is a fibre that will be increasingly useful in the future.

- What do you notice about their supply chain?
- Where does wool come from?
- What are the benefits of using wool in this way?
- What products can be made from wool and which surprise you?

Activity

Use H.Dawson's wool fibre qualities chart on the next page to investigate...

Identify 1 or 2 qualities of wool fibres that would be useful in:

- A garment for outdoor wear in the winter
- A piece of sportswear
- Bedding

Use H.Dawson’s wool fibre qualities chart to investigate:

Authentic Experts

Over 135 years expertise in wool fibre, wool types, wool blend science. Strong customer service that can respond to bespoke requirements. Experts in interiors, industrial, outdoor apparel and equipment.

In-house wool fibre experts and bespoke eco-positive solutions

Extensive knowledge in harnessing wool properties and specialists in blending fibre to create unique product alongside our standard ranges.

Woolkeepers® ethical sourcing platform. Founded in 2019 to educate farming community on regenerative land management and animal welfare techniques. Purchasing directly from the farmer.

Dedicated supply chains

Management of fibre from farm to factory door. Working with global standards such a Responsible Wool Standard (RWS), Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) and Land To Market.

Performance Technology

Temperature-regulating and breathable creating a stable microclimate, ideal for active wear.

Comfortable and resilient

Hand selected H. Dawson fibre traps more air to generate excellent warmth, added natural spring and resilience.

Elastic with compression recovery

Naturally crimped British fibres provide loft and help to improve thermal properties and performance durability.

Excellent moisture management

Wool can absorb up to 33% of its own weight in moisture before be- coming wet, reducing risk of ‘after chill’ effect.

Bespoke highly specialised performance washable wool product offers.

Sharelabel/QR code

Traceable value-added bespoke services, via our own Woolkeepers platform giving our wool a competitive advantage.

Clo Values comparable to other man made & natural insulation.

Natural

Animal Welfare

Dedicated farmers who go beyond minimum standards to apply best practice animal husbandry. Nurturing animal welfare via our own community platform The Woolkeepers.

Farmer Welfare

We pay fair price directly to the farmer. Building a community of expertise, fellowship and support allowing farmers to connect and share their challenges & successes.

Land Management

Our efforts extend to land welfare working with Land To Market towards regenerative agriculture for improved soil health techniques.

Circular Model

Renewable and planet positive biodegradable fibre.

Odour-inhibiting, anti-bacterial

Wool wicks away moisture locks away sweat molecules preventing bacterial growth which causes odour.

Creative brief from H.Dawson

Your Challenge

Design a garment or an interior item that uses the natural performance of wool fibres to support how people will live, work, and thrive in the future.

As our world changes, with new ways of working, a greater focus on wellbeing, and rising demand for sustainable materials, we believe wool can offer brilliant, creative solutions. From breathable, temperature-regulating clothing to home items that improve indoor air quality and comfort, wool is a fibre for the future!

Your design

Your design should make the most of wool's natural performance.

How will the special properties of wool contribute to your item / garment? How will this be reflected in your design? Think insulation, moisture management, odour resistance, and biodegradability.

We're looking for creative, future-facing ideas that respond to evolving ways of living, like remote work, climate adaptation, or more mobile lifestyles.

Designs should feel bold and imaginative, but also practical in the real world. Consider how sustainability, ethical sourcing, and traceability could be reflected in your material choices and design process.

Continues...

About H.Dawson

Since 1888, H.Dawson has been at the heart of wool innovation. We supply trusted, traceable wool through our HD Wool apparel brand, working closely with farmers and designers to create natural, high-performance products that are good for people and planet. Through our Woolkeepers® programme, we help bring verified, ethical wool to life in everything from bedding to outerwear.

We believe that young designers have the power to shape what's next — and we're excited to see how you'll harness wool to design something that makes life better, naturally.

We're looking for

- A clear concept that explains how your design will work.
- A simple sketch or mock-up of your idea (hand-drawn or digital).
- A short description (100-200 words) about how your design uses wool's natural performance and addresses a need in the future.
- Optional: Add mood boards, material samples, or inspiration sources.

Explore more

www.hdawson.com 

www.hdwool.com 

www.thewoolkeepers.com 

There are further links to help support your research for this brief in the Explore section.

This is an educational creative brief set to help develop understanding of the unique qualities of wool and engagement with We Will Sing. It is not a competition leading to production of any submitted designs.

Educator Notes

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This is a real-life brief set by H.Dawson. While not a competition, they are keen to see the designs learners develop, so please do share with the Bradford2025 team at learn@bradford2025.co.uk

There is lots of scope to develop this pack to meet the needs and interests of your learners.

Suggested extensions

- Build in more time for research, mood boards, and inspiration.
- Encourage learners to present their design concepts verbally or in writing.
- Link the activity to careers in design, heritage, sustainability, and textiles.



Links to Explore Further

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Links to assist with research and development

[Wool Product Innovations | Woolmark](#) ➔

[Sustainable Fibres – Wool As A Sustainable Fibre | Woolmark](#) ➔

[A Fusion of Aesthetics and Performance
– The Woolmark Company](#) ➔

[Future Observatory: Tomorrow's Wardrobe – Design Museum](#)

[Future Observatory: Tomorrow's Wardrobe
– Future Observatory](#) ➔

[Can regenerative wool make fashion more sustainable?
– BBC Future](#) ➔

[Innovations in Wool Fashion – Fabric Material Guide](#) ➔

[Illustration of wool vs polyester: \[www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7304909068832260096\]\(https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7304909068832260096\)](#) ➔

[LCA and wool: \[wto.org/sustainability/life-cycle-assessment\]\(https://wto.org/sustainability/life-cycle-assessment\)](#) ➔

[Carbon and wool: \[iwto.org/sustainability/carbon-cycle\]\(https://iwto.org/sustainability/carbon-cycle\)](#) ➔

[Microplastics: \[iwto.org/sustainability/microplastic-pollution-why-wool-is-part-of-a-solution-iwto\]\(https://iwto.org/sustainability/microplastic-pollution-why-wool-is-part-of-a-solution-iwto\)](#) ➔

We Will Sing by Ann Hamilton, © David Lindsay.

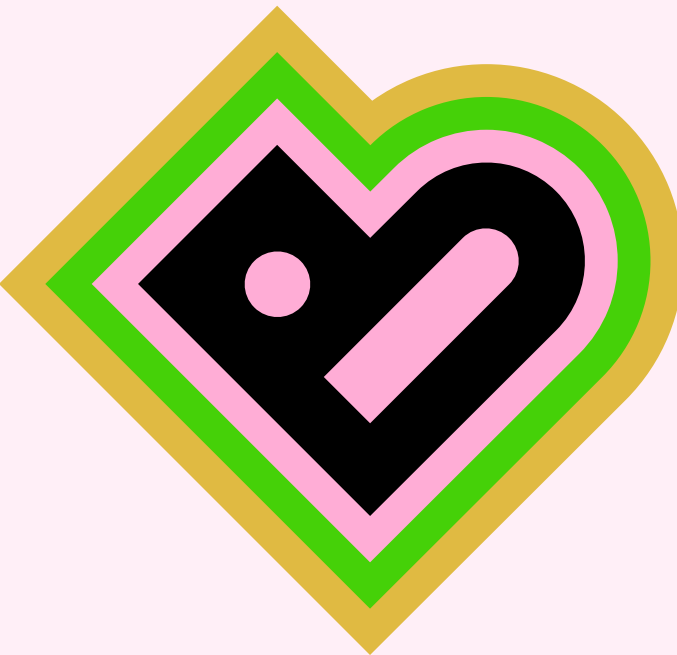


We'd love to hear your thoughts and see your learners' creations. Please share your outputs with us by emailing learn@bradford2025.co.uk or by tagging us on social media: [@Bradford_2025](#) and by using our [#BradfordMade](#) hashtag.

Credits

This resource was co-created by Anna Cole (Bradford Made Learning Specialist, Bradford 2025) and Alison Atkins (H.Dawson Ltd). Graphic Design by Lee Goater.

This resource was commissioned by Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture.



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