

PRESS RELEASE –

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## **British textile artist Anna Ray pays tribute to City of London’s historic trade of weaving in new Brookfield Properties Crafts Council partnership exhibition**

- *The exhibition marks Anna Ray winning the Brookfield Properties Crafts Council Collection Award in March 2021, a major prize for makers in Britain*
- *‘On Tenterhooks’ is the second Brookfield Properties Crafts Council Collection Award exhibition, and follows Matt Smith: 2020.*
- *British textile artist Anna Ray launches an exhibition in the City of London where silk-weaving was introduced in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.*
- *‘On Tenterhooks’ will be displayed across 99 Bishopsgate and Aldgate Tower and will focus on the past and present process of textile making.*
- *Ray’s winning works ‘Capture’ and ‘Weave’ will go on public show for the first time.*
- *The free exhibition will run from 21 June 2021 – 3 September 2021*
- *More information: [www.99bishopsgate.com/events](http://www.99bishopsgate.com/events)*



Anna Ray: *Weave* (photo © Anna Ray)

**London, 09 July 2021** – British textile [artist Anna Ray](#) will present a selection of her works in a free exhibition from 21 June until 3 September 2021 at 99 Bishopsgate and Aldgate Tower in the City of London. Inspired by Ray’s Huguenot ancestors who settled in Spitalfields as textile makers in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the exhibition *On Tenterhooks* will explore the past and present of textile making. Central to the exhibition will be Ray’s award-winning artworks ‘Capture’ and ‘Weave’, which will be shown in public for the first time. They were acquired by Brookfield Properties as a gift for the Crafts Council Primary Collection as part of the Brookfield Properties Crafts Council Collection Award 2021.

Anna Ray won the Award, a major UK prize for craft, for her ability to express energy, joy, and reflection through these sculptural and colourful works, which were made during and straight after the first UK Covid-

19 lockdown and were presented virtually by House on Mars Gallery during the Crafts Council's 2021 digital edition of Collect: International art fair for contemporary craft and design. Ray was awarded the Brookfield Properties Crafts Council Collection Award for the scale of the work and the context in which it was created. A video of Anna talking about her works can be viewed [here](#).

*On Tenterhooks* will be displayed across two Brookfield Properties venues – 99 Bishopsgate and Aldgate Tower – which both occupy space where the London textile industry was based, evidenced in street names such as North, South, East and West Tenter Street, and Threadneedle Street. Across Spitalfields and Aldgate in the 18th Century, large areas of open land called tenter grounds were needed to stretch and dry woven and dyed cloth on rows of wooden frames, edged with sharp tenter hooks, to catch along the selvedge of the fabric. The exhibition will delve into Anna's own roots in this area, where her Huguenot ancestors lived and worked as textile makers.

### **99 Bishopsgate – the present**

Each exhibition location has lead works that set the scene. 99 Bishopsgate will focus on the present; showcasing how textiles can respond to the needs of our contemporary life and express current-day emotions. Led by the works *Weave* and *Capture*, each made during lockdown, the works in this location are bold, bright, and energetic. They aim to spark energy and joy of coming back together again.

Other works on this location will include an installation of Ray's well-known, colourful *Margate Knot*, which was co-created with a community of female contributors, evidencing the power of community and collaboration. Also, on display will be *Stripe* and *Bloom*, textile sculptures with organic forms inspired by flowers that express our longing for nature, and *Pointillist*, an adaptable assemblage of bright dotted sticks which can be displayed in any form.

### **Aldgate Tower – the past**

The works on show at Aldgate Tower focus on the traditions of textile making, manufacture and industry, drawing on Anna Ray's personal family connections to both trade and place. The exhibition will be led by the *Off-cut* series, which Ray created when she was artist in resident at carpet company Forbo as part of the National Festival of Making in Blackburn, Lancashire in 2019. The artworks reference the materials and machinery used for carpet making, resulting in a group of works that reimagine the making process and the materials of the industrial process.

Also on display will be *Madame Bovary*, which has never been shown in the UK before. The work illustrates how textile art can tell stories. The artwork mirrors the faith of Emma Bovary, central character of Gustave Flaubert's famous novel from 1856. After she dies from swallowing arsenic, Madame Bovary's body is dressed and moved, her dress stained by black spills from her mouth. Ray cleverly visualises the scene, using pink silk organza which has been dipped in black gloss paint that slowly unravels, mirroring the unravelling of Bovary's character whilst referencing textile history with the stripe reminiscent of striped silk taffeta used in dress making during that period.

### **Anna Ray – textile artist and winner of the Brookfield Properties Crafts Council Collection Award**

**2021**, said: “*One of my ancestors was a French refugee who settled in Spitalfields in 1740, at the age of 27. Pierre Hoinville was a journeyman weaver, and he lived and wove in his home on Sclater Street in the heart of Spitalfields in the East End of London. Amongst the regenerated, gentrified developments, there are some weavers' houses still standing there today - sooty, dilapidated and covered in graffiti. I am moved to be able to exhibit my work so close to where Pierre and his descendants lived. Pierre's great-grandson George Hoinville was a 'Fancy Trimmings' manufacturer, who by 1826 owned a factory and 36 Houses in Bethnal Green, where the makers he employed lived and worked. The exhibition title 'On Tenterhooks' refers to my creative ancestors, the use of materials and processes within my artwork, and my excitement about showing the works 'Capture' and 'Weave' which were recently acquired by Brookfield Properties for the Crafts Council Collection. Winning the Brookfield Properties Crafts Council Collection Award has been a joy and a privilege.*”

**Caitlin Warfield – Vice President, Marketing U.K. Office Division Brookfield Properties**, said: “*Anna Ray's exhibition will welcome workers, local residents and visitors back to the City of London during the*

*Summer and will be part of Brookfield Properties' Summer Art Walk – an art trail through the City of London, which includes installations from artists Sophie Smallhorn at 100 Bishopsgate and Emily Forgot at Principle Place and Citypoint, as well as three works featured in Sculpture in the City, of which Brookfield is a proud partner.”*

**Rosy Greenlees, Executive Director, Crafts Council,** said: “ *The level of commitment Brookfield Properties have given the British craft sector – especially at such a difficult time – is so impressive. We are confident the Brookfield Properties Crafts Council Collection Award will become a leading prize in the field. We are delighted to have Anna’s life-affirming pieces Weave and Capture in the collection and look forward to seeing them in the wider context of her work in On Tenterhooks.*

- ENDS -

## Notes to Editors

### Press enquiries Brookfield Properties Crafts Council Collection Award

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### Visitor Information

#### *99 Bishopsgate*

- Reception lobby of 99 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 3XD
- 21 June – 3 September 2021
- 8am-6pm daily
- Entry is free, no booking required
- 99 Bishopsgate is fully accessible.
- <https://www.99bishopsgate.com/events/>

#### *Aldgate Tower*

- [Location] Aldgate Tower, London, [Postcode]
- 21 June – 3 September 2021
- 8am-6pm daily
- Entry is free, no booking required
- Aldgate Tower is fully accessible.

### About the Brookfield Properties Crafts Council Collection Award

The Brookfield Properties Crafts Council Collection Award, launched in 2020, is a major prize for makers in Britain and unique for the sector as it supports both the individual artist as well as the collection of the sector’s representative body, the Crafts Council. The award enables significant annual acquisitions for the Crafts Council Collection and, in addition, gives the winning artists and associated gallery financial support as well as an alternative platform to showcase work to broader audiences. The award is for artists that have a link with Britain, either via nationality or via having lived or practiced here, who have made a significant contribution to UK craft and making. The award is leading in the UK craft sector, both in terms of financial value (resulting in £25,500 for the artist and associated gallery for 2021), as well as promotional value for the artist, the associated gallery, and the Crafts Council. The winner of the award will get curatorial and production support to exhibit at Brookfield Properties in the Summer and Autumn of 2021; central to the exhibition will be artworks acquired by Brookfield Properties as a gift for the Crafts Council Primary Collection. The Brookfield Properties Crafts Council Collection Award 2021 was the second edition of the award; the inaugural Award was won by artist Matt Smith.

### About Anna Ray

Through making by hand, I explore the visual and emotive potential of materials. I enjoy experimenting with different media, predominantly fibre based: silk, cotton, velvet, wool, and paper. Each have the potential to be transformed using domestic equipment and tools: a sewing machine, scissors, pliers, a needle. My work often

blurs the boundaries between two- and three-dimensional forms of art; some pieces are painted or stained, like canvases in relief. My life and personal experiences influence my practice, emotions and memories creep in. I feed my active imagination with research, drawing on nature, ancient and historical art, design, and craft. My desire is to create work that is sensually rich and captivating. From 1994-1999 I studied BA (Hons) and MFA Tapestry at Edinburgh College of Art. I became a lecturer in the department soon after graduation and taught for six years before relocating to London in 2006.

[www.annaray.co.uk](http://www.annaray.co.uk)

[www.houseonmars.net/anna-ray](http://www.houseonmars.net/anna-ray)

### **About House on Mars Gallery**

House on Mars Gallery is a contemporary design gallery established in 2020, showcasing wearable art / contemporary jewellery and objects for the modern lifestyle, based in London. Born out of passion for design and making, together with the love for playfulness in home goods and jewellery, the gallery aims to offer a carefully curated collection of designed and crafted objects for the modern human. Our primary objective is to celebrate and promote amazing artists, designers, and makers and to select objects that add a joyful component to everyday experience, sometimes provoke, surprise and mostly comfort our uncertain existence. Placing emphasis on a mixed selection of pieces featuring various methods of making and materials that are rooted in traditional crafts combined with very contemporary modes of production. We are interested in artists and designers who use playful concepts and slightly obscure ways of looking at reality to interpret their surroundings.

[www.houseonmars.net](http://www.houseonmars.net)

### **About the Crafts Council**

The Crafts Council is the national charity for craft. We believe craft skills and knowledge enrich and uplift us as individuals and can change our world for the better. Through our activities we inspire making, empower learning and nurture craft businesses. We do this by championing craft and its positive impact on society, increasing levels of craft education and participation, growing the market for craft, and by building a sustainable and inclusive craft sector. [www.craftscouncil.org.uk](http://www.craftscouncil.org.uk)

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### **About Brookfield Properties**

Brookfield Properties is a leading global developer and operator of high-quality real estate assets. We are active in nearly all real estate sectors, including office, retail, multifamily, hospitality and logistics, operating more than 675 properties and more than 325 million square feet of real estate in gateway cities around the globe on behalf of Brookfield Asset Management, one of the largest asset managers in the world. With a focus on sustainability, a commitment to excellence, and the drive for relentless innovation in the planning, development and management of buildings and their surroundings, Brookfield Properties is reimagining real estate from the ground up. For more information, visit [www.brookfieldproperties.com](http://www.brookfieldproperties.com).