

PENNY BURDETT CV

Over her 30 years of designing knits, **Penny** has been fascinated with pushing the repeat pattern for the **domestic knitting machine** punchcard to the limit. Her forte is to make the organic patterns flow so you are not instantly aware of the repeat, and contrast these with very geometric designs, often using many patterns together. She also loves the challenge of designing faces so they read properly in a knitted fabric. Bringing all this together with her distinctive use of colour and garment shape has become her defined signature.

Penny and a small team of **local makers** produce her designs, which are made to a very high standard in kid mohair, silk, linen, cotton and fine Italian yarns. She has most of her yarns specially dyed and blended to order. All of her designs are **limited editions** or '**one-off**' **art pieces** and she is constantly developing and adding new designs to her range.

Early life, education and work:

Born Penelope Booth in London 1948.

As a child, she lived in London, Herefordshire, Ceylon, Singapore, Gloucestershire, Scotland, Westmorland and Cornwall

Her father being in the RAF, she attended 9 schools, 1953-1965

Foundation in Art and Design Falmouth College of Art 1965-66

Degree in Graphic Design specialising in Animation, Leeds College of Art 1966-69

Animator/designer at Yorkshire TV, Leeds 1969

Assistant Animator Hallas and Batchelor studio London 1970-71

Assistant Animator Richard Williams studio London 1971-72

Married film maker Richard Burdett 1972.

3 children born - Jessica, Eleanor and Thomas 1972-77

Freelance Assistant animator various London Studios 1973-75

Teaching Craft Workshops for the London Borough of Hackney 1975-86

Attended workshops for Adult Education tutors at Morley College, London 1980-85

Head of Fashion and Textiles, Hackney Adult Education Institute 1986-87

Started her knitwear business from a weekend stall at Camden Lock Market 1986

Attended a Crafts Council course 'setting up and running a Craft Business' at the London College of Furniture 1988

Opened her first shop/workshop selling her own knitwear at Camden Lock 1998

Moved to a larger shop/workshop in Camden Lock 2003

After a varied career in art/design/craft based businesses and education, Penny started her knitwear business in 1986, having always had a fascination with designing and making clothes and ArtKnit pieces. Before opening her shop in Camden Lock in 1998, she showed her work at prestigious **design fairs** such as the Chelsea Crafts Fair run by the Crafts Council, with orders from round the world including the **outlets listed** - she now concentrates solely on retail and design.

Retail outlets 1988-2006 included:

Julie Dale Artisans Gallery New York
Simon Pearce Glass Studio Stores Vermont
Three Bags Full San Francisco
Scotch on the Rockies Colorado
Pavo Real Boutique Boston, Chicago, Washington DC and Seattle
Baff Boutique Berlin
Hitchcocks Bath and Alresford, HANTS
Ragamuffin Royal Mile, Edinburgh and Isle of Skye
Oasis stores UK
Duffer St George LONDON
Number 2, Hay-on-Wye
Finishing Touches, Sheffield

Exhibitions include:

Involved in a Women's Art Exchange and an exhibition at the ICA Gallery 1979
Chelsea Craft Fair, London 1988,89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97
'Plying for Trade', Smiths Gallery, Covent Garden, London 1989
Edinburgh Festival, The Tent 1990
'Chelsea Goes to California', Los Angeles. USA 1990
Design in Knitwear, London 1991,92,93,94,95
'Artisan', Edinburgh Festival 1998
Country Living Fair, BDC, London, Spring 99, Autumn 99,2000,2001,2002
Hidden Art Open Studios 2004
Pure Olympia 2005, 2006, 2007
The Craft Market, Tent Exhibitions, Brick Lane, London 2012
'30 Years in the Making' exhibition at Craft Central Gallery, Clerkenwell, London
October 2016

Events and Shows:

2 short animated films shown at the **BFI** in curated Post Graduate Film Festival 1970
Featured on the front cover of the book '**Women and Craft**' 1987
Set up and ran the first **Camden Lock** Fashion Show 2002
Showed her work at Camden Lock **Fashion Shows** 2003-06
Chosen for 'People's Choice' 'Best Retailer' section in the **VISIT LONDON AWARDS**
2008 Produced her own Fashion Show at **Lockside Lounge**, Camden 2010, 2012
Selected to sell her work at the **Apple Market, Covent Garden** 2010
Produced knitted backdrops for a play 'The Knitting Circle' at the **Soho Theatre**,
London 2011
Her work was included in the first '**We Make London**' book 2012
Designed special pieces for the **Save the Children** Xmas Jumper event 2013, 2014
Knitted a piece of work 35 meters long to '**Wrap the Lock**' for the Lock Festival 2014
Launched her book '**30 Years in the Making**' at her Craft Central Exhibition 2016