

Ptolemy Mann Britain b. 1966

'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, England

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

1995-1997	Royal College of Art, London Master's 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, England
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June 2024

2017	A Ray of Colour & Light, Digital Print Textile Art, Rug, Colour Consultancy. London, England 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 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 Solo Exhibitions

2024	Thread Paintings, Taste Contemporary, Cromwell Place, London, UK
2023	UNCONSCIOUS COLOR – Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach, Florida, USA
2022	THRESHOLDS, Findlay Galleries, Palm Beach, Florida and New York City, NY, USA
2019	Circadian Rhythm, site specific installation, Tate Modern, London, England
2019	BAUHAUS / HANDWERK, Gallery Lau, Munich, Germany ALBEDO, London, England
2011 - 2012	The Architecture of Cloth, Colour and Space, year-long touring exhibition at Ruthin, Dovecot, Aram and Harley Galleries finishing at Gloucester Cathedral, England
2010	Chromatic Minimalism, Munich, Germany

Selected Group Exhibitions

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, England
2020	Harvest Moon, Taste Contemporary, Geneva, Switzerland artgenève [represented by Taste Contemporary], Geneva, Switzerland

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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, England 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, England
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
