

Edward Fennell's LEGAL DIARY

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'WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER' – SUSAN STOCKWELL AND THE STAFF OF PINSENT MASONS

The 'shared experience' of the C-Virus lockdown has proved to be an uncannily appropriate context for the participatory art quilt project at

Pinsent Masons being co-ordinated by its current artist-in-residence Susan Stockwell. **'We Are All in This Together'** was actually conceived last year against the background of the run-up to Brexit. However, that trauma now seems relatively minor compared with the C-Virus which is keeping the firm's staff largely at home and working in isolation. All the more reason, though, for them to join in and contribute individual quilt patches to an artwork that will be drawn together into its final form later this year. Susan Stockwell, the firm's fifth artist-in-residence, had been conducting workshops at the firm before the lockdown.

"The original steer was to produce a response to the times we live in, from a personal, philosophical or political perspective," explains Maggie O'Regan of InSitu Art Consultants which manages the firm's art initiatives. "Brexit was at the forefront of people's minds originally. With the COVID-19 crisis and subsequent lockdown, no one could have predicted how much more relevant the project would become. It now gives voice to a sense of shared experience and solidarity during quarantine, expressed creatively by staff through their contributions." "I am delighted that despite lockdown, Susan continues to engage with staff remotely through a participatory and therapeutic art quilt. Sewing and the act of making are important meditative processes that provide calm and comfort. I am also excited to see the final artwork Susan will assemble with the contributions from Pinsent Masons staff."



'Hope Inside Us All', (reused army blanket and embroidery) is a detail from a previous art quilt by Susan Stockwell titled 'Piece Makers' 2014, where the artist engaged veteran soldiers and the National Army Museum (NAM) over a two year period.

In undertaking 'We are all in this together' Susan Stockwell is building on her extensive experience in a long series of similar, socially-engaged projects involving quilt artworks. These include 'Piece Makers' (2012-2016) commissioned by the National Army Museum and developed with veteran soldiers. Meanwhile her sculptural work – including distinctive and subtly political life-size dress sculptures made of money and maps that deal with issues of colonialism and feminism – have also been on display throughout the firm's offices.

For more on Susan Stockwell go to <http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/videos/a/video-a-chinese-dream-by-susan-stockwell>

Susan Stockwell's 'Fast Fashion' exhibition is currently online until May 11th <https://www.patrickheide.com/exhibitions/online-exhibitionsusan-stockwell>

More on Maggie O'Regan at <http://www.insitu-art.co.uk>