

# Neil Bottle

## Thirty Years in the Making - All That Remains

13.09.19 - 19.10.19



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**All That Remains** is a body of work that was created as celebration of my 30 years as a textiles practitioner. It acts as a milestone, repositioning my practice in a research context unconfined by the constraints of my commercial fashion print work.

Nostalgia, in the context of the digital age, is a key focus in the work through which I aim to reconnect and remember the precious fragments of family photographs. My context is an autobiographical narrative printed onto cloth, a memory bank, in which both physical photographic prints and digitally captured images are deconstructed and re-presented. The familiarity of these resonates and references one's own values and connections with the past, present and future.

Digital production methods are often associated with mass production but my approach is more similar to that of a painter, building up complex surfaces and layers of imagery. My creative outputs are carefully crafted, honed, reworked and refined digital one-off pieces which have required a fluency in the complex language of our digital world.

Our collective past is rapidly diminishing as the materiality of both the physical world and also the spoken word as communication are replaced with digital platforms. I aim to evoke a collective experience of nostalgia, to invite curiosity and discussion about the way we recall memories, interact with digitally created images and consider the value of the physical artefact in a virtual world. I also reference contemporary photographic theory which explores the influence of social media on human behaviour.

As a digital settler, born in the late 1960s and with three decades of analogue printed textiles experience, my approach to the use of Computer Aided Design is very different from that of a generation of younger 'digital native' designers, who have never experienced a pre-digital existence. For over a decade I have pushed the boundaries of computer software in my work and in the pursuit of the highest quality digital print resolution available. With the development of the latest generation of digital printers, digitally printed textiles can now rival the quality of hand printing and even surpass it with the limitless opportunities it presents for creative expression.

Artist statement, August 2019

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