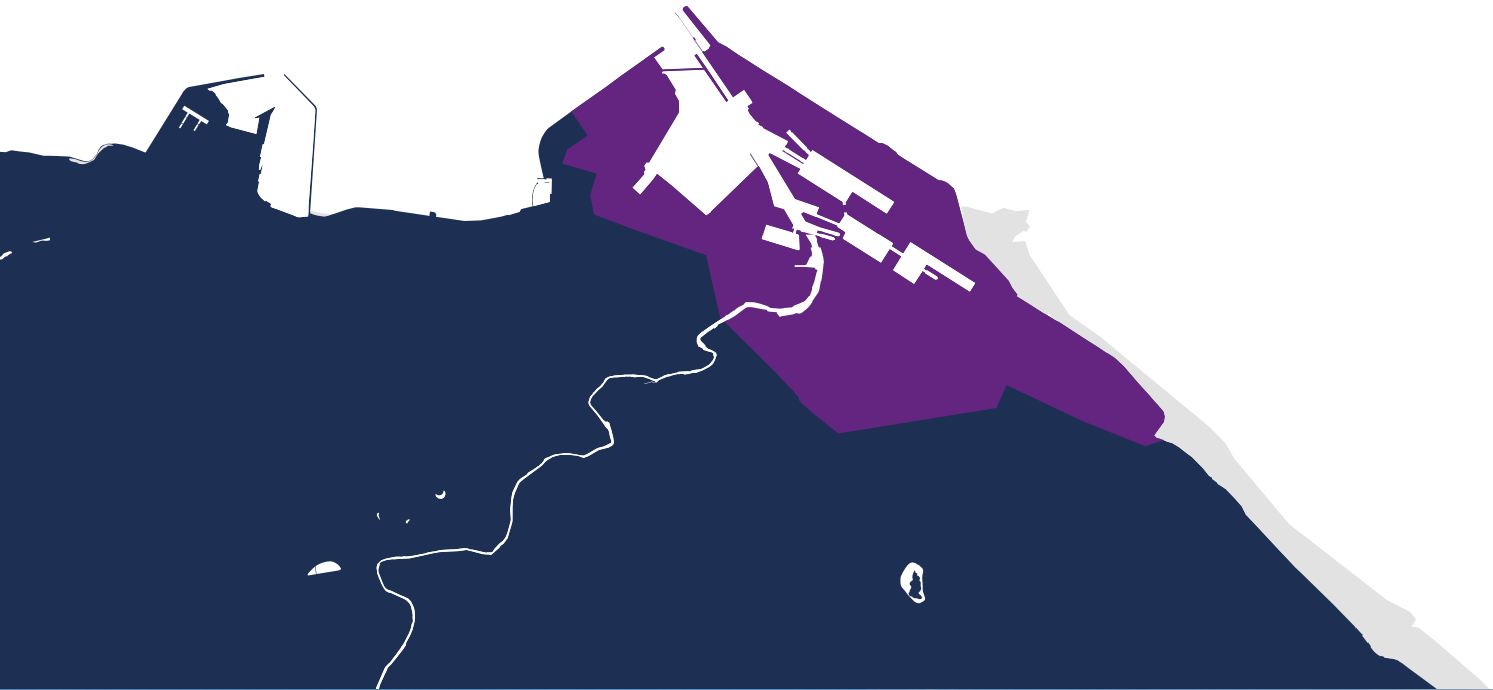




KINETIKA  
DESIGN THAT MOVES



FORTH PORTS LIMITED



LEITH  
COMMUNITY  
BANNER-MAKING  
PROJECT  
2024



# ABOUT MURSHIDABAD SILK

Kinetika is an importer of this heritage-quality hand-woven silk from West Bengal. Sales support Kinetika's charitable work and help the weavers to continue their skilled craft. Murshidabad silk is now our preferred choice when making batik flags due to its ability to hold bright dye colours and the soft but durable texture.

Kinetika is internationally renowned for creating stunning large-scale hand-painted silks, using the process of batik to make beautiful flags, costumes and products for the last 25 years. While developing the Silk River project in India, Kinetika was introduced to a



very fine, high quality 100% hand-woven silk from Murshidabad, a district in West Bengal.

Kinetika were very keen to work with this exquisite silk and through the Crafts Council of West Bengal (CCWB) were able to connect directly with the local weavers who still had the original looms and the required level of skill. Realising that the weaving skill required for this heritage fabric is in

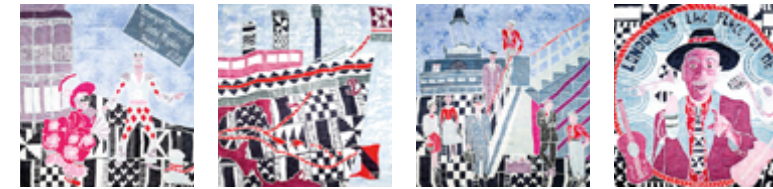
danger of being lost, Kinetika is now working closely with Ajoy, a local silk merchant and CCWB to make it available in the UK to silk painters and lovers who will appreciate how unique it is.

The silk is woven in Dangapara, a small village in Murshidabad by 14 families of weavers who are the last generation who have this skill. Kinetika hope that by creating a new demand for this silk, they will encourage this community to continue this ancient tradition.

**Find out more, and purchase, from [www.kinetika.co.uk/about-murshidabad-silk](http://www.kinetika.co.uk/about-murshidabad-silk)**



**KINETIKA**  
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Flags designed and made by community groups with Kinetika

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# INTRODUCING FORTH PORTS & LEITH



**We are thrilled to announce a remarkable collaboration between Forth Ports and Kinetika, a renowned arts organization with a global footprint. Together, we are embarking on an exciting venture to engage with the vibrant communities of Leith and encapsulate the rich history, dynamic present,**

**and promising future of the Port of Leith through a unique artistic endeavour.**

In this initiative, we invite you to join us in crafting three impressive 6-metre flags, each dedicated to a different facet of the Port of Leith's identity. These flags will serve as symbols that celebrate the past, reflect on the

present, and cast a visionary gaze into the future.

Your stories, experiences, and insights are integral to the success of this project. We encourage you to share your personal connections, memories, and aspirations related to the Port of Leith. By doing so, you can help shape the visual narratives of our flags, making them truly representative of the community's collective spirit.

The culmination of our collaborative efforts will be a display of these flags at the Jazz and Blues Festival in June 2024. This celebration promises to be a visual feast, showcasing the unique culture and character of Leith while capturing the essence of its past, present, and future.

We are excited to embark on this artistic journey with you and look forward to the stories, images, and inspirations that you will bring to life.

**Lucy-Emma Harris, Forth Ports**



# ABOUT KINETIKA



Kinetika is an internationally renowned company, specialising in creating large-scale hand-painted silks. For over 25 years we have been combining world-class design with community projects to produce spectacular outdoor commissions that engage diverse audiences wherever

we work. Founded by artistic director Ali Pretty in 1997 and inspired by her training in carnival arts in Trinidad and India, Kinetika now has an unrivalled reputation for working with local communities on projects that change the way people feel about where they live. From

local community walks in Essex to high streets and city squares across the UK, out to the Great Wall of China, Ethiopia and West Bengal. In 2022, Kinetika co-created The Thank You Dance, the final section of The Platinum Jubilee Pageant that took place on the Mall.

[www.kinetika.co.uk/about-us](http://www.kinetika.co.uk/about-us)



Above left: Land of the Fanns community flags; above: the Platinum Jubilee Pageant; centre: Milton Keynes community flag



# ABOUT THE ARTISTS



## ALI PRETTY

Ali is best known as the founding member and artistic director of the international outdoor arts company Kinetika, which she founded in 1997 after an established career in carnival arts and a growing commitment to community engagement. Ali has collaborated with, and led teams of artists to deliver large-scale events to diverse audiences all over the world, such as; WOMAD (1985-1991), FIFA World Cup (2009), the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In recent years Ali has been developing her practice to develop transformational walking arts projects with diverse communities.

Through these Ali brings people together by walking, talking and painting large-scale silk creations. Since 2012, Ali has led walking projects in Wiltshire, the Isle of Wight, Lincolnshire, Essex and Thurrock, where she has developed an annual walking, talking and making festival, Thurrock 100. This pioneering place-making model has been replicated internationally in various forms in Ethiopia, Chile and India. Her most ambitious project to date is Silk River, commissioned by the British Council as part of the UK / India Year of Culture in 2017. Ali has recently completed Beach of Dreams, leading a 500-mile walk involving 500 participants and 500 silk flags from Lowestoft to Tilbury.



## SARAH DOYLE

After graduating university, Sarah worked for ten years in the early years education sector and has always had a passion for art and inspiring creativity in young people. Sarah is currently a cake artist specialising in creating sugar models and bespoke cakes. After designing a flag for the Tilbury carnival in 2019, she soon fell in love with batik and creating stunning silk flags with Kinetika. Sarah has been



working as an artist with Kinetika for the past 18 months, supporting several projects including T100 mandalas, Grays community flags, Carnival Gold and Beach of Dreams. Sarah loves working with communities and individuals to help bring their ideas and creativity to life.

# THEMES & TAKING PART

We are delighted to invite you to take part in creating the Leith Silks. We will be working with you and your groups to design a set of 3 beautiful silk banners that reflect the Past, Present and Future of Leith.



This resource pack is to inspire you to get creative with your group members and to support you through a step-by-step process in creating the designs for your group's banners.

We would like to link all three banners to the river of Leith using the river to meander across all 3 silks.

## PAST

Leith Heritage Group will be taking the lead on this silk.

### INSPIRATION:

This 6m banner will serve to celebrate the past of Leith and its port. Your stories, experiences, and insights are integral to this. We encourage you to share your personal connections, memories, and aspirations related to the Port of Leith. By doing so, you can help shape the visual narratives of these banners, making them truly representative of the community's collective spirit.

### SOME IDEAS TO

#### INSPIRE YOUR DESIGNS:

- Look into the ship builders of Leith and their stories –

Ron Neish has written three books on the ships that were built in Leith

- Ships that were built in Leith (The biggest ship ever built in Britain was built in Leith – the København)
- Leith Hospital and Womens Rights
- New Haven fishwife

#### SUGGESTED SOURCE FOR RESEARCH AND IMAGES:

Please look at the wonderful resource of '100 days of Leith' found here: <https://www.leithforever.org/100days>

#### WHAT TO DO NEXT?

- Get outside and walk the streets of Leith to get inspired
- Turn to designing your banner



Top: the København featured on the Leith Forever '100 Days' website; middle: Newhaven Fishwives Choir, 1920s; bottom: Leith Hospital, 1957-1960. All images from Leith Forever '100 Days' website



# PRESENT

Leith Academy will be leading on this silk.

## INSPIRATION:

This 6m banner will serve to reflect on Present day Leith and its port – all about the communities in Leith. Your stories, experiences, and insights are integral to the success of this project. We encourage you to share your personal connections, memories, and aspirations related to the Port of Leith. By doing so, you can help shape the visual narratives of the banner, making it truly representative of the community's collective spirit.

## SOME IDEAS TO INSPIRE YOUR DESIGNS:

- To help shape the aesthetic of this banner, we can gain inspiration from a contemporary artist, Stewart Bremner – A Scottish Graphic Artist. His works can be found here: <https://stewartbremner.co.uk/>
- Celebrating the role of women - Mary Moriarty, the Queen of Leith. Find out more here: <https://www.leithforever.org/100days/day3?rq=mary%20moriarty>
- Role of Women in Logistics – Forth Ports
- Easter Road Stadium
- Leith Walk
- Port of Leith Distillery

- Leith sayings:  
*M'on the Hibeas*  
*Nae bother*  
*Cheesin'*  
*Ken but!*  
*Wissnae me!*  
*Aye right!*  
*Fit aye the walk*  
*Hiya hen!*

## SUGGESTED SOURCE FOR RESEARCH AND IMAGES:

Please look at the wonderful resource of 100 days of Leith found here: <https://www.leithforever.org/100days>

## WHAT TO DO NEXT?

- Get outside and walk the streets of Leith to get inspired!
- Turn to designing your banner



The 'Queen of Leith', Mary Moriarty



M'on the Hibeas

# FUTURE

Citadel Youth Group will be taking the lead on this silk.

## INSPIRATION:

This 6m banner will serve to cast a visionary gaze into the future of Leith and its port. Your stories, experiences, and insights are integral to this. We encourage you to share your personal connections and aspirations related to the Port of Leith. By doing so, you can help shape the visual narratives of this banner, making it truly representative of the community's collective spirit.

## SOME IDEAS TO INSPIRE YOUR DESIGNS:

To help shape the style of this banner, we can look at Leith-based artist Eduardo Paolozzi, using his artwork as inspiration – specifically his collages and screen prints.

Have your say in what the 'future of Leith' entails!

## SUGGESTED SOURCE FOR RESEARCH AND IMAGES:

Please look at the wonderful resource of 100 days of Leith found here: <https://www.leithforever.org/100days>

## WHAT TO DO NEXT?

- Get outside and walk the streets of Leith to get inspired
- Turn to designing your banner



Above: present-day Leith; below: a selection of artist Stewart Bremner's 'Scots sayings' prints; bottom: Newhaven lighthouse and harbour





# TIMELINE

## FEB-MARCH

Research and develop designs in groups independently

## MARCH 25th

Zoom check-in with groups to answer questions before workshops in April

## APRIL 16th

**Past** Design and Drawing Workshop – Leith Heritage Group at Customs House in Leith

## APRIL 17th

**Present** Design and Drawing Workshop - Leith Academy

## APRIL 18th

**Future** – Citadel Youth Group, Citadel Youth Centre

## END OF APRIL

Ali and Sarah will take the designs down to Purfleet to wax and paint at the Kinetika Studios



The flag making process: drawing, scaling up, waxing, dyeing

# DESIGNING YOUR BANNER



**1 DON'T PANIC!**

**2** Think about the story for each image you use, choose 1-3 images that could represent this story. This could be a building, the landscape, main character, a logo etc.

**3** There is an opportunity to tell multiple stories per banner, bring as many

images as you can, they may not all be used in the final product, but they will all inform the banner in some way.

**4** Make a quick sketch, or compose your photos, tracings, logos, etc into a collage to map out how these images might be composed within the banner.

**5** When designing your banner, draw or trace

each image separately on an A3 or A2 sheet in pencil.

**6** When you are happy with your drawings go over each one with a thick black marker pen.

**7** These will then need to be cut out and ready to arrange in the workshops in April.

**Below: examples of banners reflecting diverse communities of Bloomsbury, London**





THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART IN THE

**LEITH**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**BANNER-MAKING**  
**PROJECT**  
**2024**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO  
SEEING YOUR DESIGNS



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