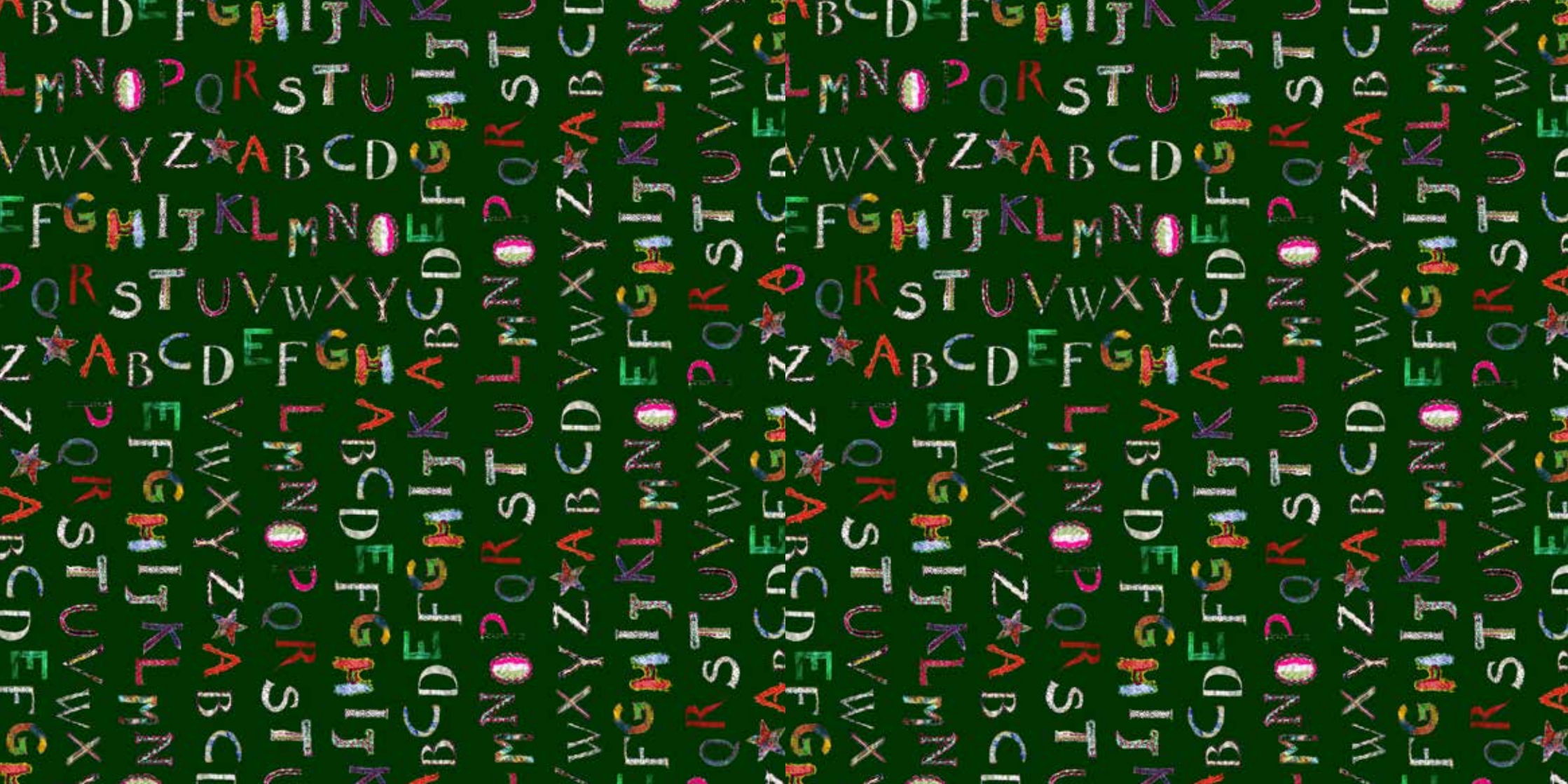




THE McGRATH MAKERS



The McGrath Makers

learning disabled group

Clifton Baptiste
Halima Begum
Felicia Danqua
Donald Dunn
Ramdas Laxman
Fenella Rodriguez
Ade Adepitan
Sonia Holder
Herminio Lopez
Carina Emmanuel
Menelik Woldearegoye
Gaynor Sheekey
Hamida Ali
Olley Samba (support worker)
Tayo Awosan (support worker)

Support Workers for The McGrath Makers

Roma Titre
Anita Morton

Senior Support Worker

Eunice Odima

Tutor

Sonia Tuttiett

Little Ilford Textile Group

Laura Holland
Radha Rajan
Lorna Lambert
Nell Chapman
Prue Guthrie
Sameena Kazmi
Taskin Fazaldin
Sandra Elliot
Helen Gudge
Lesley Fowler
Ann Dreen
Jeannie Liu
Bridget Ryan
Christina Lee
Marie Chu
Johura
Satnam Marway
Vashanta
Janie Hui
Hilda
Margaret
Anne
Julie
Elliejo Barret
Liz Clough
Julia Buzzbee
Nacema Degia
Neonila Grecu
Rae
Joanne Barrett

Tutor for Little Ilford Textile Group

Sonia Tuttiett

Class Manager

Maya Crowe

East Ham Library Embroidery Group

Rekha Patel

Laura

Halima Begum

Lewley Fowler

Ann

Meena

Kaushika Vaghela

Tutors

Karen Harris

Lynn Cranfield

Hopeful Futures

Outreach Group

Tahir

Sunar

Brian

Tutors

Carys Orphan

Sonia Tuttiett

Book Design

Celia Ward

Graphic and Textile Design

Lorna Lambert

Photography

Andrew Brown

Lorna Lambert

Celia Ward

Accounts

Lynn Cranfield

Mike Tuttiett

Creative Director & Lead Textile Artist

Sonia Tuttiett



WHAT WE DO

The McGrath Makers are a group of adults with learning disabilities who meet weekly to embroider and make textiles. The group joins other textile groups and takes part in projects where its work can be seen in exhibitions, booklets, cards, printed textiles, decorated papers, and handmade quilts. It often partners with Little Ilford Embroidery Group, modelling costumes made by them. Now it has its own organisation and runs its own projects and raises its own money. It has its own website and instagram account. These can be found at www.mcgrathmakers.com and [@mcgrath_makers](https://www.instagram.com/mcgrath_makers).



TEXTILES WE TREASURE

by

THE McGRATH MAKERS

in partnership with

EAST LONDON TEXTILE ARTS





For our latest project, *Textiles We Treasure*, we took the ballet of *The Firebird* as inspiration and made headdresses modelled on traditional Russian kokoshniks, decorating them with things we liked. The decorative panels above and on other pages are kokoshniks made by Little Ilford Embroidery Group.





Opposite is a painting by Tahir inspired by the backdrop of the *The Firebird* ballet first performed in Paris in 1910. The ballet was based on an old Russian folk tale with music by Stravinsky. It was created in our outreach class, which partnered with *Hopeful Futures* (an organisation for people with learning disabilities and autism). It depicts the onion domes of Russian churches, while the bright colours are like the Russian folk art that was the inspiration for the costumes and set of the original ballet. The puppets are characters from the folk tale.





WE ARE GREAT MODELS

Left: Donald Dunn in his kokoshnik.

Right: Sonia Holder in her kokoshnik.

Kokoshniks by The McGrath Makers.

Kokoshniks were traditional headware in the northern parts of Russia for women of all classes. They first appeared in the 10th century and are still worn today.

In the 19th century, they became part of Russian court dress.

When Russians fled to Paris after the Russian Revolution in 1918 they took this tradition with them, where it was copied by French fashion designers, becoming the inspiration for head-dresses throughout Europe.





Left: Ramdas Laxman
in his kokoshnik.

Right: Karen Harris
in *The Firebird*
Costume made by
members of *Little
Ilford Embroidery
Group*, designed
and finished by
Sonia Tuttiett.





Ade Adepitan in *Romeo's Gown* made by *East Ham Library Embroidery Group* holding a bag decorated with prints of embroidered motifs by *The McGrath Makers*, designed by Lorna Lambert. Behind is a printed cotton hanging, again designed by Lorna Lambert using the many embroideries the group has made over the years.

Donald Dunn in a jacket designed and made by Rachael Matthews using an embroidered bird motif embroidered by Donald.





Making together is at the heart of all our projects. *The McGrath Makers* have been involved with nearly all projects run by *East London Textile Arts* and now have their own organisation. *The McGrath Makers* regularly model clothes made by *Little Ilford Embroidery Group* as well as modelling costumes created from their own textile designs. Skilled women love to volunteer with *The McGrath Makers*, working behind the scenes to design their embroideries into printed textiles from which others make clothes, while volunteers make quilts from the original embroideries.



Fenella Rodriguez in a parrot top made by Lorna Lambert, with fabric designed by Celia Ward, from embroideries by *Little Ilford Embroidery Group*.



For many years *The McGrath Makers* have contributed to exhibitions held by *East London Textile Arts*, in Newham Libraries and further afield — often at the *Art Workers' Guild*. They held their own exhibition at the little gallery-cum-haberdashery in Bethnal Green, *Prick Your Finger*, run by Rachael Matthews. This autumn they are holding their first exhibition in the *Hopkins Room* at Stratford Library, where it will remain for three months.

Opposite: Halima holds the dolls she and Donald, helped by Sophia Ramsay, were commissioned to make for an exhibition in Vienna in 2015. Halima wears a parrot kimono, with printed textile designed by Celia Ward from embroidered motifs by *Little Ilford Embroidery Group*, made into a kimono by Sameena Kazi.





WHAT WE DO NEXT

The McGrath Makers will be creating craftwork based on the diverse textile heritages of Newham. They have started to make bunting using designs from flags from countries their families came from. Next there are plans to decorate Indian animals, and we will see what can be made from these. Maybe cards, textile designs, clothes, bags. Maybe members of the *Little Ilford Embroidery Group* will be inspired to use the embroideries in their designs!



IN THE FUTURE

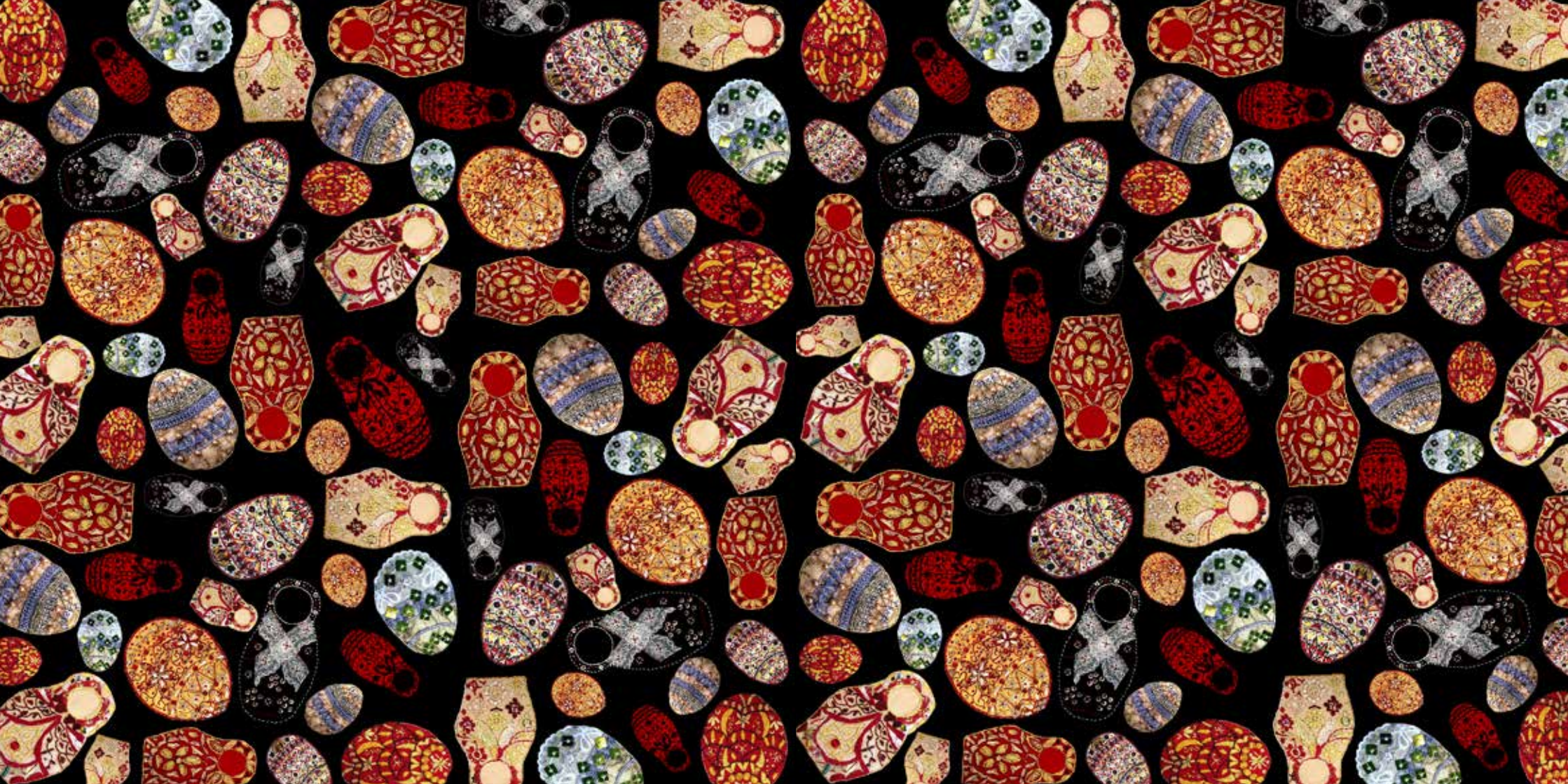
In the coming year *The McGrath Makers* will exhibit their new work with *East London Textile Arts* at the *Art Workers' Guild*. It will also be exhibited in an online gallery on their website. The outreach project will continue to work with a group of people with early stage dementia, as well as with those with learning disabilities and autism through its ongoing partnership with *Hopeful Futures*.



If you would like to know more about our work, or would like to join or partner with us please get in touch. We love new ideas and projects. We hope you have enjoyed this booklet and look forward to where we might go next.



But most importantly we celebrate the work of people whose textiles are not often seen. They bring much joy. We hope as many people as possible come to appreciate the wonderful textiles of *The McGrath Makers*.





www.mcgrathmakers.com instagram: @mcgrath_makers