

# Sustainable Textile artist- Louisa Kelly

I have been familiar with this artist for many years now, as she is from my own home town, Maghera. Her art has been sold in many art shops around the mid Ulster area, including the Irish speaking art shop that I used to work in. Louisa graduated from Ulster University in textiles, particularly working with felt. She is sustainable in



multiple ways. Firstly, she works on a rather small scale, creating pieces that are on average 6 x 6 inches. Therefore, she uses up less of the felt material. Furthermore, she also resources her materials sustainably, both by getting felt that would have been thrown out otherwise. Or by dissecting old pieces.

She is greatly inspired by the local rural surrounding, I believe that this is exhibited really well in the vivid, natural colours of her work. She is most recognised for her felt landscapes, which show incredible skill in the felt medium. As depicted in this image, she has created shadows and

highlights in such a delicate manner with the felt. Ultimately, creating quite a realistic image, with such tedious material, in my opinion.

Not only has the flora and fauna of the Irish landscape been captured exceptionally well, I believe that the nature of felt complements the nature of the clouds. As the whispyness and shadows are clear to see. The elements also play a major role in her landscapes. She clearly has a great understanding of colour and weather, as illustrated in the second image. She manages to beautifully capture a snowy sunrise over the Carn mountain exceptionally well, in my opinion.

I believe that Kelly's methods that she uses to make her art sustainable are reasonable enough to upkeep. They reflect a way in which all artists should be making their art sustainable. Especially in the textile art industry, which is known for its high carbon emission, granted most of this does come from fashion. Moreover, it could be argued that this little extra effort on resourcing is well worth it in the long run. I have taken inspiration from Kelly in my own work, by using yarn from old jumpers that would have gone to the recycling, to make my new projects.

