Wit of the Stitch Methods and Processes Rachael Howard Bath Spa University

The Wit of the Stitch followed on from Blue Red Work. Rainbow Joggers (2014), has a large format textile hanging made by zooming in on painterly marks used as the backdrop for six smaller images of joggers. Four additional fabric pictures (2016) were commissioned for the exhibition offering an opportunity to further explore the ideas in Character Consequences (2014) and the use of textile as a means to capture observed behaviours and tell stories. The expressive characters, their minimal expression, and their posture are captured with minimal lines.

The textiles are all based on initial pencil sketches used to develop the character and expressions. They are then developed through mock ups and drawn ideations stages using several different traditional methods such as applique and embroidery. The new works commissioned for this exhibition extend the palette of off cuts, scraps, doodles and other found pieces to incorporate paint. Digital technology is used to zoom in on unlikely small painterly marks, and other overlooked or discarded elements bringing them into a new focus.