



# Shirley Craven and Hull Traders

**Revolutionary Fabrics and Furniture 1957-1980**

**Lesley Jackson**

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- Records the extraordinary screen-printed textiles of leading British 1960's designer Shirley Craven and her unique creative partnership with Hull Traders; also covers their iconic *tomotom* paper furniture

"...a great resource for the art and textile enthusiast..." **Classic Stitches**, 2010. The most gifted textile designer of her generation, Shirley Craven won a string of awards during the 1960's. This book celebrates her remarkable achievements at Hull Traders and documents her arresting hand screen-printed furnishing fabrics in full. Big bold abstracts were her speciality, striking in colour and breathtakingly original in style. A visionary small company with high ideals, Hull Traders made its mark initially with designs by artists Eduardo Paolozzi, Nigel Henderson and Ivon Hitchens. Under Craven's direction Hull Traders issued a string of ground-breaking textiles during the 1960's by forty artist-designers, recorded here in their entirety for the first time. Contributors included Althea McNish, John Drummond, Peter McCulloch, Doreen Dyal, Roger Limbrick, Cliff Holden, Richard Allen and Dorothy Carr. In 1966 Hull Traders branched out into furniture with the launch of Bernard Holdaway's revolutionary *tomotom* range made of painted cardboard tubes – an icon of the Swinging Sixties, based entirely on circular forms, sold all over the world. Drawing on pioneering new research by leading post-war design historian Lesley Jackson, this book traces the fascinating, hitherto untold story of Hull Traders and its unique creative alliance with Shirley Craven and Bernard Holdaway. Featuring stunning new photography and rare archive photographs, it captures the explosion of creativity during the 1960's and provides a visual feast of inspirational post-war pattern and form.

**Lesley Jackson** is a freelance writer and curator specialising in 20th century design. Her books include *The New Look - Design in the Fifties*; *'Contemporary' Architecture and Interiors of the 1950s*; *The Sixties - Decade of Design Revolution*; *Robin and Lucienne Day - Pioneers of Contemporary Design*; *20th Century Pattern Design - Textile and Wallpaper Pioneers*; and *From Atoms to Patterns - Crystal Structure Designs from the 1951 Festival of Britain*. She has curated exhibitions for many leading organisations, including the British Council, Crafts Council, Barbican Art Gallery and Wellcome Collection.