

# Liz Pead: Hockey and art

May 4, 2014 · by [Lars Pryds](#) · in 2014, [Residency](#)

Kurt Schwitters, the German Merz-artist (1887-1948) once famously introduced himself with the words “I’m a painter, I nail my pictures together”. **Liz Pead**, one of the artists in residence in the Textilsetur in May, could make a similar introduction to herself, something like: “I’m a painter, I staple my textiles together”.

An artist, painter, and self-described hockey mom and goalie for a recreational women’s team in Toronto, Canada, Liz Pead uses old discarded hockey gear for paint – and literally staples sweaty old jerseys, pads, helmets, skates, pucks, cards and other pieces of equipment on plywood and similar surfaces to create landscapes and installations.

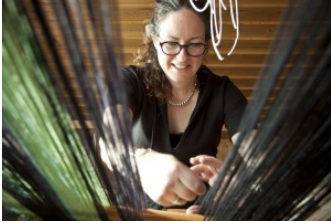


Liz Pead: Landscape, 2013. Recycled hockey gear, 16"x20". Photo by Liz Pead.

“I love the colour of fibre, and the texture. I’m not really surprised that my paintings have taken on fibre as ‘loaded paint’, literally being hockey gear. The textile has so much more history and weight that pushes a new kind of conversation,” she says. “I wanted to find a Canadian material to use in my paintings that would address the mediated landscape that Canada is becoming.”

In Blönduós, however, on the first day of the residency she attacked one of

the big looms in the weaving studio, setting it up for a blanket in an Icelandic colour palette based on a sketch of some ground moss – and to work with traditional Icelandic textile patterns. So, at least for starters, she will be weaving, but one never knows what will happen.



Liz Pead in the studio at the Textilsetur. Photo by Lars Pryds.

“I’ll see what I find and make stuff out of it. I’ve never weaved in a loom like this one before, so I’m looking forward to that. The raven is my ‘fylgja’ figure – so I also want to work with this as a motif in the loom.”

With the raven as her “attendant spirit” Liz Pead wants her work to tie back into Icelandic myth and patterns, and to the way ornament is a means to not only make an object more beautiful, but also to putting things in order, allowing it to function in the best possible way.

Another theme that Liz Pead will be working with is a nest theme – including wool, horse hair and shiny little things. So like a raven or a crow, she might be searching for old stuff to pick up here and there – and not just in hockey arena garbage cans.

“And in my spare time, I’ll knit,” she laughs.

Liz Pead holds two diplomas in Textile Design from the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design and has a background in theatre. She completed her BFA at OCAD University in Toronto in 2007 as the Medal Winner in Drawing and Painting.

Liz Pead is a great fan of Iceland, and has visited the country several times.

Her work is hanging in every Icelandic hockey arena – and she frequently plays in tournaments here (even this month also, in Akureyri).

Her website and blog is at [www.lizpead.com](http://www.lizpead.com)

On twitter, she's [@lizpead](https://twitter.com/lizpead)



Liz Pead, from Toronto, Canada, setting up the loom in the weaving studio. Her helpers are Lisbeth Tolstrup and Elizabeth Moule. Photo by Lars Pryds.

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