

SERENE AND SIMPLE

New work by textile artist Hillu Liebelt, inspired by her Japanese travels, gets its first UK airing at the Platform Gallery (24 January – 7 March). A mixture of tapestries, textile sculptures and installations, the touring exhibition (funded by an Arts Council grant) has the serenity and simplicity typical of traditional Japanese art. But the work itself is very far from old-fashioned, as Liebelt explores ways of moving tapestry off the wall and into the third dimension, while combining textiles with metallic materials. The show centres on *Dance* (see below), a free-standing field of poppy-like textile

heads on short, gently swaying wire stems. 'Since my return from Japan in 2006,' she says, 'I became interested in silk cocoons and stainless steel wire. I won't ever move completely away from tapestry weaving, which I really enjoy, but I will certainly pursue the possibilities of textile sculptures as well.' The work was first shown at the Centre for Cultural Exchange in Katsuyama in Japan, coinciding with Liebelt's autumn residency, and will tour to Black Swan Arts in Somerset later in the year.

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