



## **BURMAN BEARS**

Angela Burman established her business, Burman Bears back in 2009 and has received recognition for her designs and work by way of The Birmingham Made Me Design Awards in 2013 and The Retail Birmingham Award 2014 for Customer Service.

As a mature student during her studies for a Visual Arts Degree at Birmingham City University, Angela had a strong sense of direction and was greatly encouraged by her lecturers and peers that textile character design was her future.

People and animals inspire her to create contemporary and traditional, quality heirlooms that will last for generations. The expressions and personality of each character have in their very being a touch of someone or an expression you have seen or experienced in your lifetime and ultimately touch your heart. Angela believes that there is a bear for everyone.

From 2012-2013 Angela became an integral part of managing an award winning retail collective initiated by Birmingham Made Me, which involved the creation of two stores in one of Birmingham's most stylish shopping destinations, the Mailbox. Burman Bears also had great success whilst exhibiting at the Birmingham Made Me Design Expos in 2012 and 2013, which led to forming successful customer relations, which are strong and growing year on year.

Whilst at The Birmingham Made Me store Birmingham's internationally renowned Willard Wigan MBE who creates the smallest sculptures in the world, which have to be viewed through a microscope asked her to collaborate with him. They chose one of her characters called Whisper The Listening Bear who works with children that have experienced trauma, bereavement and different kinds of abuse in their young lives. The sculpture, which sits on one of Angela's eyelashes, has been on tour and will be on show in Birmingham and eventually sold.

Angela says "The experience that I gained from my time managing the Birmingham Made Me store has given me valuable skills and experience to continue in the retail trade with concessions in the successful Handmade Boutique chain in Sutton Coldfield, The Great Western Arcade, Touchwood and the Mailbox in 2015".

She puts her success down to the face to face contact and interaction with the customer, which provides the best type of feedback to progress, develop and evolve as a designer.

The passion and drive behind her work is endless and one of her favourite quotes is "bears need people and people need bears", which says it all really because it is not only customers and clients who purchase her work that matter, but also the team of people who now form part of Burman Bear's growing success.

#### Contact and Social Media Information

Web: [www.burmanbears.com](http://www.burmanbears.com)

Email: [burmanbears@gmail.com](mailto:burmanbears@gmail.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/burmanbears](http://www.facebook.com/burmanbears)

Twitter: [@BurmanBears](https://twitter.com/BurmanBears)