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Creative Courage: The Textile Institute in Conversation with Joshua Kane.

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Award-winning British designer Joshua Kane joined Professor Jess Power CText FTI for a conversation exploring creativity, craftsmanship, authenticity and the future of British fashion.

What happens when one of Britain's most distinctive menswear designers sits down with the Chair of a global professional body representing the textile, clothing and footwear industries?

A conversation full of creativity, craftsmanship, individuality, and a healthy dose of creative courage.

Award-winning designer Joshua Kane joined Professor Jess Power CText FTI, Chair of The Textile Institute, as guest speaker at the Institute's 116th Annual General Meeting in June, for an engaging conversation about his creative journey, his approach to design and the values that have shaped his distinctive fashion brand.

For The Textile Institute, this is what a good industry conversation should do: spark ideas, challenge thinking and bring different worlds together.

Oxford-born Joshua Kane studied Fashion Design at Kingston University, graduating with a First Class Honours degree. He went on to gain experience with internationally recognised fashion houses including Brooks Brothers in New York, Jaeger, Burberry Prorsum and Paul Smith, before establishing his own independent design house in 2014.

Starting out from his London apartment, creating bespoke tailoring for friends and acquaintances, Joshua's business quickly grew. Within six months he had introduced a ready-to-wear collection, followed by his first runway collection and the opening of his first store in East London's Spitalfields.

Today, the Joshua Kane brand continues to combine bespoke tailoring, made-to-order and ready-to-wear fashion, with craftsmanship and individuality at the heart of the business. Joshua's approach to fashion is rooted in British craftsmanship while embracing a highly individual and contemporary aesthetic. His designs combine traditional tailoring with distinctive colour, pattern and form, reflecting his belief that clothing should express personality and tell a story.

That spirit was at the heart of his conversation with Professor Power. Reflecting on the conversation, Professor Power said:

"Speaking with Joshua Kane was a masterclass in creative courage, a reminder that when craft, authenticity, and imagination collide, British fashion shines at its brightest. It was an absolute pleasure to welcome Joshua to be our guest speaker at this year's AGM."

Joshua's career is a powerful example of what can happen when traditional skills are combined with imagination and a willingness to challenge convention.

His work has continued to attract significant recognition. In 2026, Joshua was named Haute Couture Designer of the Year at the CS Global Fashion Awards and Menswear Designer of the Year at the London Fashion Awards.

For The Textile Institute, the conversation was about more than celebrating an individual designer's achievements. It highlighted the importance of creating opportunities for the textile and fashion community to hear directly from people who are shaping the industry.

The relationship between textiles, fashion and design is constantly evolving. New technologies, changing consumer expectations and new approaches to creativity are transforming the industry, but the importance of skills, craftsmanship and professional expertise remains at its heart. Joshua's approach demonstrates that tradition does not have to mean standing still. Heritage and innovation can work together, with craftsmanship providing the foundation for new ideas.

Bringing different perspectives together is at the heart of what The Textile Institute does – connecting professional knowledge with the creativity, experience and ideas shaping today's industry. The Institute is delighted to continue its relationship with Joshua Kane, with further conversations already underway and new opportunities being explored across design, textiles, industry and professional practice.

While there is more to come, the conversation at the AGM provided a timely reminder that some of the most exciting ideas emerge when different perspectives are brought together.

And perhaps that is where creative courage begins: having the confidence to know where you have come from, while being brave enough to imagine where you could go next.

About The Textile Institute

The Textile Institute is an international professional body representing individuals and organisations across the textile, clothing and footwear industries. Established in 1910 and incorporated by Royal Charter, The Textile Institute promotes professional standards, knowledge, education, networking and innovation across the global textile community.

The Institute provides professional qualifications, accreditation and approval, education and training opportunities, events, publications and a global network of Sections and Special Interest Groups.

The current World President is Mr Charles Wood CText FTI and current Chair is Professor Jess Power CText FTI.

For further information, please visit: www.textileinstitute.org

For further information about Joshua Kane: www.joshuakanestore.com