

FAIR ISLE AND ARAN-KNITTING EXPERT ALICE STARMORE

Alice is a Scottish artist, photographer, designer and author whose textile books are in use throughout the world. She was born on the Hebridean island of Lewis into a typical family of Gaelic speaking crofter-fishermen. The culture in which she was brought up and the nature of the landscape around her have greatly influenced her work.

Alice became a professional textile designer in 1975 and three years later was awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship which enabled her to travel to Norway, Sweden and Finland to study the textile traditions of those countries. She started to write after this, and has since had 16 books published, plus numerous magazine articles. She has established an international reputation as a leading expert on knitting design and technique. Her books on Fair Isle knitting and *Aran Knitting* are regarded as important standard texts on their subjects, and she has taught and lectured extensively throughout Britain, Europe and the USA.

In 2001, along with her daughter Jade, she created her unique range of Alice Starmore® Hebridean Yarn for Virtual Yarns Ltd, their on-line yarn and design company, which showcases and sells their classic and current knitting design work.

Photography, drawing and painting are constant threads weaving through all aspects of her career. Her current work in these media tends strongly towards the natural world and is often linked to nature conservancy. She is an authority on the flora and fauna of Hebridean moorland habitats. For more of her Alice's work visit: <http://www.virtualyarns.com> (knitting and textiles) <http://www.mamba.org.uk> (gallery exhibitions) <http://www.alicestarmore.com> (photography and the natural world)

JADE STARMORE

Jade was born and brought up in the Hebridean Isle of Lewis. She is primarily a professional photographer and stylist, specializing in fashion and art photography.

She is also a designer involved in book cover, website and textile design. Her textile designs are well known through her book *A Collector's Item* which was inspired by the eclectic Burrell Collection in Glasgow, and is also in books such as *Tudor Roses*, *Pacific Coast Highway* and *The Children's Collection*.

Her current photographic and styling work features in the new Dover editions of *Aran Knitting* and *Charts for Color Knitting* by Alice Starmore. Her knitting designs, photography, styling and website design can be seen at <http://www.virtualyarns.com> where she is actively involved as Creative Director. To see more of Jade's photographic work visit <http://www.towzietyke.com>

VIRTUAL YARNS is the on-line home of Alice Starmore® yarns and Alice and Jade Starmore designs. Alice has designed her own range of unique artisan yarns made from premium quality pure new wool. The wool is dyed in the fleece then blended by a master craftsman into complex colors created by Alice which reflect the beauty she finds in the Hebridean landscape. The yarns and designs, together with all their stories, can be seen at <http://www.virtualyarns.com>