

Fashion & Textiles: Innovation in Sustainability

LCB Depot's exhibition & events programme highlights work from a different creative industry every month. In April 2020 the focus is on fashion and textiles.

Artists and designers from across the country including those based in Leicester and at De Montfort University will explore sustainable practices from bespoke tailoring of long lasting garments to innovative new materials.

To find out more visit lcbdepot.co.uk/event/fashion-2020

#sustainablefashion @lcbdepot



Love our Oceans X Little Lazy Oaf

Abi Harris

My collection is based on the importance of sustainability and plastic pollution in the oceans. My designs are not only designed to educate children about plastic pollution, but they are made from sustainable and recycled materials. My range was mainly made up of t-shirts, sweatshirts and hoddies and therefore organic cotton was a main material that I used. I used single jersey organic cotton for each of the t-shirts within my range, along with organic cotton brushed back sweatshirt material for the hoodie. I also set out to generate a new life to old fabrics as well as using new organic options. I used recycled denim for my jeans which was made from 2 pairs of adults disused jeans donated to me. Where possible I collected fastening such as zips and button to re-use within my collection to ensure its sustainability. In industry I would have a much wider range of materials and the ability to knit my own fabrics with recycled polyester content in order to allow for digital print, or even to explore new sustainable methods of printing. When applying decoration to my collection, I opted for sustainable methods such as embroidery when possible.

My final major collection is a sustainable unisex range for the childrenswear brand I created called Little Lazy Oaf, a sub-brand of the original mens/womenswear brand, Lazy Oaf. The range is named 'Love our Oceans' and is focussed on the clean-up of the oceans and plastic pollution. I am addressing goal 14: Life below Water of the UN sustainable

goals in my project. My collection is innovative because it has longer lasting teaching effects of our future generations through the use of educational prints and motifs that will teach children about the importance of ocean pollution. The collection will be marketed as a collaboration with The Ocean Clean Up- a charity which focusses on sea pollution, a percentage of the profits of this range will go to the charity. The concept of this range is designed to educate kids about the importance of sustainability and recycling, particularly within the fashion industry. This range of garments aims to offer a light-hearted, but genuine message to future generations about the importance of clean oceans and plastic pollution through the use of fun and playful prints, motifs and slogans. The designs feature a unique and cheeky motif such as a shrimp throughout to teach children about the importance in a cheerful way. The range is unisex and genderless to help remind consumers that the responsibility is inclusive and is not down to an individual, a gender or an age group- it must be tackled by all of us. The garments are oversized to ensure that the product is genderless and is worn by both male and females and in order to attempt to reduce waste and maximise wear; as children are continually growing it is important for us to reflect this in the clothing. The collection also focusses on the entire journey of the product, including its afterlife, with upcycling/recycling guides and the opportunity to sell your garments back to us to ensure it is sustainable throughout. The collection will also be made seasonless and marketed so that it can be worn all year round, this will limit the need to rebuy clothing and throw it away if it can be worn whenever and wherever.

Artist Bio

As a two-time award-winning student designer, I am constantly keeping myself creatively aware of the latest trends by following bloggers, reading magazines and watching catwalk shows. In today's climate, sustainability is also very important to me and is always in the forefront of my mind, I recently won the Roadley award for my childrenswear sustainability concept for my final major collection. Having experienced a variety of roles such as Buying, Design and Merchandising, it has enabled me to understand the lifecycle of a product from the supplier, to the head office and finally to the store. I have recently completed a year's industrial placement at Dunelm as a Buyers Assistant and have also experienced other companies such as Next, George, Nutmeg and Goldsmiths. My work experience and education has made me commercial yet creative with great excitement to start my career in the fashion industry. My goal is to become a successful childrenswear buyer with a special focus of sustainability and the future of fashion.