

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



Emmanuel House x NTU

Emmanuel House x NTU

Used clothing and household textiles, donated to Emmanuel House and NTU. Upcycling techniques including, deconstruction, over-dyeing, embroidery, patchwork, printing, embossing, bonding and quilting.

Emmanuel House X NTU is a social design/innovation collaboration, between a homeless charity in Nottingham and Year One, Level 4 BA Fashion Design at students. Clothing and household items donated to the charity are sorted into three waste streams for: service users to wear/ use; resale in the charity shop to raise funds and to sell by the kilo (as textile waste) to the 'rag man'. The prevalence of fast fashion garments within donations has created issues relating to storing, sorting, reallocating and reselling second-hand clothing. This sustainable fashion project seeks to highlight and mitigate and the disparity between clothing waste and clothing poverty, by adopting a circular design approach (Ellen Macarthur Foundation 2019).

The research practice was undertaken between February and May 2019 as Project 2, a mandatory module within the BA (Hons) Fashion Design curriculum, whereby students were asked to develop speculative garment solutions in response to nine 'Be words' that captured the clothing needs of the homeless and vulnerable, as expressed by service users of Emmanuel House:

- Be protected
- Be secure
- Be warm
- Be dry
- Be comfortable
- Be visible
- Be transformable

- Be detachable
- Be functional

The sourcing of textile waste as a new material to work on designs for an overlooked market sector, required the students to shift their mindset towards a more holistic view of what constitutes the materials and wearers of fashion. The hands-on sorting of donated clothing was framed by the team as a contemporary form of 'rag picking', as practiced by various designers whose innovative work relies on repurposing existing fashion products (Townsend et al 2019). Using 80% of donated clothing/ found textiles the students created garments that were tested and worn by the service users and their peers in a community fashion event and celebration at Emmanuel House. Following the project, most of the 60 completed garments were donated to Emmanuel House for service users and/or sale.

Artist Bio

The human centred empirical investigation was coordinated by the authors; a multidisciplinary team with expertise in fashion and textile design, marketing, fundraising and film making; Emma Prince, Katherine Townsend, Alison Prescott, Gill Barker and Tim Bassford.

Emmanuel House X NTU is a practice research collaboration between a homeless charity in Nottingham and Year One, Level 4 BA Fashion Design students from Nottingham Trent University. The resulting garments and film highlight and mitigate the disparity between clothing waste and clothing poverty, through a user centred design approach.

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