

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

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<p>FASHION & TEXTILES: INNOVATION IN SUSTAINABILITY EMOTIONAL FIT - RESEARCH PROJECT Katherine Townsend, Ania Sadkowska, Juliana Sissons, Karen Harrigan, Katherine West and Jim Boxall for Nottingham Trent University</p>  <p>Emotional Fit is a practice-led fashion and textile research investigation into how the overlooked area of older women's embodied fashion knowledge can inform more sustainable design strategies.</p> <p>The collaborative enquiry, involving a team of academic researchers and 40 female participants (aged 55-75) draws on the women's lived experiences of wearing (and making clothing as young women), through the development of an inclusive methodology which challenges the industry's preconceptions of fashion & ageing. The co-created artefacts synthesize bespoke textile designs and silhouettes based on a shaping matrix incorporating zero waste, geometric cutting & engineered print.</p> <p>Image credit: Rebecca Lewis</p>	<p>FASHION & TEXTILES: INNOVATION IN SUSTAINABILITY EMOTIONAL FIT - RESEARCH PROJECT The unique participatory-research-through-clothing-design methodology was realized through Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) and co-design methods.</p>  <p>Analysis of interviews and wardrobe studies revealed interests and concerns relating to: fashion awareness, bodily changes, belonging, personal trajectories and textiles as a catalyst.</p> <p>Creative workshops, fittings and photo shoots provided further insights into the influence of textile qualities and flexible garment forms on individuals' sense of agency and well-being. The findings informed the co-design of a collection of versatile garment prototypes with corresponding prints, a selection of which were modelled at a public event, the Emotional Fit: Fashion Salon.</p> <p>Image credit: Rebecca Lewis</p>	<p>FASHION & TEXTILES: INNOVATION IN SUSTAINABILITY EMOTIONAL FIT - RESEARCH PROJECT MATERIALS: Inkjet-printed (with reactive dyes) and plain organic woven cotton and knitted jersey, viscose, silk, tie-dyed Irish linen using indigo natural dye.</p>  <p>Dr Katherine Townsend is Associate Professor of Fashion and Textile Crafts at Nottingham Trent University, based in the Centre for Fashion and Textile Research.</p> <p>Her current research (and Ph.D. supervision) encompasses emotionally durable design, dress archives and wearables, social and sustainable textile innovation, including ethnographic work in Guatemala, supported by the Global Challenges Research Fund (AHRC, UK). Katherine led and curated the research projects and exhibitions: Closely Held Secrets (2010), Crafting Anatomies (2015) and Emotional Fit (2017).</p> <p>Image credit: Rebecca Lewis</p>
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Emotional Fit

Katherine Townsend, Ania Sadkowska, Juliana Sissons, Karen Harrigan, Katherine West and Jim Boxall for Nottingham Trent University

Inkjet-printed (with reactive dyes) and plain organic woven cotton and knitted jersey, viscose, silk, tie-dyed Irish linen using indigo natural dye.

Emotional Fit is a participatory research project which challenges the notion that 'fashion and age sit uncomfortably together' (Julia Twigg 2013), by activating the embodied fashion knowledge of a group of older women from Nottingham, UK. Analysis of interviews and wardrobe studies revealed shared experiences relating to: fashion awareness, bodily changes, a sense of belonging, garment fit/ style and textiles preferences. Creative workshops, fittings and photo shoots provided further insights into the influence of fabric qualities and flexible fashion silhouettes on individuals' sense of agency and well-being.

The findings informed the co-design of a collection of versatile garment prototypes with corresponding textile prints. The zero waste separates were based on circular, square and rectangular shapes using inkjet-printed textiles in natural woven and knitted qualities, informed by personal narratives. Participants modelled a selection of the co-created garment prototypes in the Emotional Fit: Fashion Salon held at Antenna, Nottingham, 26 April 2017 in association with Fashion Revolution Week.

Artist Bio

Dr Katherine Townsend is Associate Professor of Fashion and Textile Crafts at Nottingham Trent University based in the Centre for Fashion and Textile Research, Nottingham Trent University. Katherine's practice-led PhD Transforming Shape (2004) drew on her experience as a printed fashion designer, by developing a 'simultaneous design method' for integrating the garment shapes and engineered imagery with the body. Her current research (and Ph.D. supervision) encompasses emotionally durable design, dress archives and wearables, social and sustainable textile innovation, including ethnographic work in Guatemala, supported by the Global Challenges Research Fund (AHRC, UK). Katherine led and curated the research projects and exhibitions: Closely Held Secrets (2010), Crafting Anatomies (2015) and Emotional Fit (2017) and has published outcomes in The Design Journal, Textile, Textile Design Research and Practice and Clothing Cultures. She is co-editor of the journal of Craft Research (Intellect) and lead editor of Crafting Anatomies: Archives, Dialogues, Fabrications (Bloomsbury, 2020).

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