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Working with Textiles

These resources are intended for use by teachers to help you get started with making textiles in the classroom.

The information was supplied by the artists who contributed to the *Skills in the Making* workshop programme 2009-12, funded by The Paul Hamlyn Foundation.



Introduction

Contemporary textile makers use an increasingly broad range of materials to make work mixing fabrics with paper and all kinds of sculptural materials and found objects. The practice of making textiles encompasses a wide range of techniques which can be used individually or in combination. These include weaving, stitching by hand or machine, printing, felting, appliqué and collage.

To see images of the work of The Making's textile artists, and the ideas that inform their work see:

Michael Brennand Wood: experimental constructed textiles (image courtesy the artist)

www.themaking.org.uk/Content/makers/2011/02/michael_brennand_wood.html#comments

<http://brennand-wood.com/>

<http://vimeo.com/11024369>

Caroline Broadhead: conceptual textiles

www.themaking.org.uk/Content/makers/2009/11/caroline_broadhead.html

Lucy Brown: weaving

www.themaking.org.uk/Content/makers/2010/04/lucy_brown.html

www.axisweb.org/artist/lucybrown

Dawn Dupree: screen printed textiles

www.themaking.org.uk/Content/makers/2007/09/dawn_dupree.html#comments

www.dawndupree.com/

Cas Holmes: collaged textiles and mixed media

www.themaking.org.uk/Content/ProjectArtists/p3.html

www.casholmes.textilearts.net

Alice Kettle: stitched textiles

www.themaking.org.uk/Content/makers/2007/03/alice_kettle.html#comments

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www.alicekettle.com

Shane Waltener: experimental textiles & installations

http://www.themaking.org.uk/Content/makers/2010/03/shane_waltener.html

Alison Willoughby: constructed textiles and fashion

www.themaking.org.uk/Content/makers/2008/01/alison_willoughby.html#comments

www.alisonwilloughby.com

Films

Links to makers in action can be found on their websites, but here are a few links

Alice Kettle talks to Helen Felcey about their collaboration 'Clay and Thread'

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Azc5Cy508o>

Shane Waltener's installation with Craftspace at the Knitting and Stitching Show

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-Jr3Ws5i_0&feature=related

Common textiles terms explained

Weaving: making a fabric, cloth or structure by interlacing warp threads (vertical) with weft threads (horizontal), fixed to a loom or frame

Screen Printing: creating an image using inks or dyes pressed through a mesh, often with stencils created photographically or with paper and resists.

Block Printing: creating text or images using inked blocks (usually wooden, carved in relief)

Appliqué: needlework technique used to attach fabric, embroidery or other materials to cloth to create images or designs. Used in quilting and banner making.

Stitching/Embroidery: decorating fabric with needle and thread or yarn, using a range of distinct stitches (by hand or by machine)

Knitting: turning thread or yarn into cloth or fabric by using needles to pass loops in patterns (by hand or by machine). Importantly, knitted fabric has more elasticity than woven fabric.

Crochet: creating a fabric or structure from yarn, thread or other materials using a single crochet hook (can be made from wood, metal or plastic).

Collage/mixed media: combining textiles with paper, print, dye and stitch to build up layers and textures

Constructed: sculpture or 3D structures created with any of the above techniques, often using a combination of natural and synthetic/man-made materials

Textile Material Suppliers

General Textiles

Fibrecrefts www.fibrecrefts.com 01483 565800

Old Portsmouth Road, Peasmarsh, Guildford, GU3 1LZ

Fabrics

Whaleys Ltd www.whaleys-bradford.ltd.uk 01274 576718

Harris Court, great Morton, Bradford BD7 4EQ

Brodie and Middleton www.brodies.net 020 7836 3289

68 Drury lane, London WC28 5SP

Also charity shops and recycling centres for second hand and recycled fabrics

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Fabric Printing materials

Dyes, binders, pigments: Quality Colours: www.qualitycolours.com 020 7394 8775
Unit 1 Gemini Project, Landmann Way, London SE14 5RL

Dyes and squeegees: Selectasine Serigraphics Ltd www.georgeweil.com/selectasine.aspx
65 Chislehurst Rd, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5 NP 0208 8467 8544

Screens and other products: Screen Colour Systems www.screencoloursystems.co.uk
Waterfall Cottages, Colliers Wood, London, SW19 2AE 020 8241 2050

Dyes and starter kits: Kemtex Educational Supplies www.kemtex.co.uk 01257 230220
Chorley Business & Technology Centre, Euxton Lane, Chorley, Lancashire PR7 6TE

Specialist Papers

Shepherd Bookbinders formerly Falkiners Fine Papers www.falkiners.com 020 7831 1151
6 Southampton Row, London, WC1B 4AR

John Purcell Papers www.johnpurcell.net 020 7737 5199
15 Rumsey Road London SW9 0TR

General art materials

Berol www.berol.co.uk 0844 4121126
Berol Customer Services Newell Rubbermaid Fradley Park, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 8SS

Colourcraft Ltd www.colourcraftltd.com 0114 242 1431
Unit 6 555 Carlisle Street East Sheffield S4 8DT

Books

Overview of contemporary textiles

Cole, Drusilla (2008) *Textiles Now*, Laurence King

Braddock, Sarah E and O'Mahoney Mary (2007) *Techno Textiles: revolutionary Fabrics for fashion and Design* Thames and Hudson

Scott, Jac (2003) *Textile perspectives in Mixed Media Sculpture*. Crowood Press

Telos Art Publishing specialise in contemporary textiles artists www.telos.net/index.php

Weaving

Nauman, Rose and Hull, Raymond (1974) *The off-loom weaving book*, Pitman

Russel, Carol K (1991) *The Tapestry handbook*, A&C Publishing

Appliqué

Bawden, Juliet (1991) *The Art and Craft of Applique*, Mitchell Beazley

Fashion and textiles

Willoughby, Alison (2008) *491/2 skirts* A&C Black

Udale, Jenny (2008) *Textiles and Fashion* AVA publishing

Collage and mixed media

Holmes, Cas (2010) *The found object in Textile Art*

Pearce, Amanda (1997) *The Art and Craft of Collage*, Mitchell Beazley

Bawden, Juliet (1990) *The Art and Craft of Fabric Decoration*, Mitchell Beazley

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Journals

Embroidery magazine

Selvedge

Specialist textiles websites

www.textilesociety.org.uk The Textile Society: information on museum and gallery textile collections and exhibitions, study days and events across the UK and abroad.

www.textilearts.net A wide range of links to all things textiles related – local groups, artists, materials and resources

www.62group.org.uk features the work and profiles of many UK contemporary textile makers working across the field of textiles, with links to makers' websites, exhibitions and workshops

www.embroiderersguild.com Embroiderers Guild, exhibitions and events, appointments to see the collection

www.vintagetextile.com a commercial site that includes many images of clothes and articles about the history of fashion

www.throughthesurface.com project that brought together Japanese and UK textile artists

www surfacedesign.org International Surface Design Association (US fibre art), publications, teaching resources and DVDs

Textile Collections in Museums and Galleries

www.ftmlondon.org The Fashion and Textiles Museum, London

www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk Whitworth Gallery, Manchester

www.vam.ac.uk Victoria and Albert Museum, permanent displays, special exhibitions, textile archive and study collection

www.museumofcostume.co.uk Fashion Museum, Bath

www.brighton.virtualmuseum.info Brighton Museum and Art Gallery
Includes the Fashion and Style Gallery

www.hants.gov.uk/museum/collections Hampshire Museums Service: dress and textiles collection, held in Winchester, displays across the county

www.harrismuseum.org.uk Harris Museum & Art Gallery, Preston: a Costume & Textile Collection which includes over 6,000 items of historic and contemporary clothing, textiles and fashion plates

www.horniman.ac.uk Horniman Museum: textiles from Africa, Asia, North America, The Pacific and the largest European folk art collection in the UK

...and a museum near you: search www.culture24.org.uk

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General Crafts Reading List

Craft & Design Theory

- Adamson, G. (Ed.) (2010), *The Craft Reader*. London: Berg
- Adamson, G. (2007), *Thinking through Craft*. London: Palgrave Macmillan
- Britton Newell, L. (2008), *Out of the Ordinary: Spectacular Craft*. London: V&A
- Dormer, P. (ed.) (1997), *The Culture of Craft*. Manchester University Press
- Dormer, P. (1994), *The Art of the Maker: Skill and its Meaning in Art, Craft and Design*. London: Thames and Hudson
- Frayling, C. (Ed.) (1991), *Beyond the Dovetail: Craft, Skill and Imagination*. London: Crafts Council
- Greenhalgh, P. (Ed.) (2002), *The Persistence of Craft*. London: A&C Black
- Harrod, T. (ed.) (1997), *Obscure Objects of Desire: Reviewing the crafts in the twentieth century*. University of East Anglia & Crafts Council
- McCullough, M. (1996), *Abstracting Craft: The Practiced Digital Hand*. London: MIT Press
- Papanek, V. (1979), *Design for the Real World*. London: Paladin
- Sennett, R. (2008), *The Craftsman*. London: Penguin
- Williams, G. (2009), *Telling Tales: Fantasy and Fear in Contemporary Design*. London: V&A

Articles/ reports

- Clark, G. (2009), 'The Death of Crafts: A Post-modern Post-mortem' in *Crafts* No. 216 (January/February 2009) pp.48-51
- Crafts Council (1998), *Learning Through Making: A national enquiry into the value of creative practical education in Britain*.
- Creative & Cultural Skills (2009), *The Craft Blueprint*.
- Downing, D. (2005), *School Art- What's in it?* National Foundation for Education Research
- OFSTED (2009), *Drawing Together: art, craft and design in schools*.
- Williams, G. (2009), 'Tales of the Unexpected' in *Crafts* No. 219 (July/August 2009) pp.48-55

Websites

www.themaking.org.uk craft development agency that promotes high quality contemporary art, craft and design and inspires new audiences to engage with the art of making. The website has information about 60 contemporary makers and links to their websites, and descriptions of crafts education events in schools and the community

www.artisancam.org.uk: videos of makers and pupils in action, step by step guides to making. A section for teachers: www.artisancam.org.uk/pages/teachers_notes.php includes demonstrations of basket weaving, ceramics, metal sculpture, jewellery and sci/art projects.

www.culture24.org.uk : information about museums and galleries across the UK: collections, exhibitions and events

www.craftscouncil.org.uk: information on UK crafts and learning programmes at www.craftscouncil.org.uk/learn/

www.csc.ucreative.ac.uk The Crafts Study Centre, F Farnham has a collection and archive of twentieth century British Crafts. On-going exhibition and events programme.

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www.engage.org National Association for Gallery Education. Case studies of working with schools in craft galleries and studios: www.engage.org/watchthisspace/studies.aspx

www.nsead.org: National Society for Education in Art and Design. Current issues in Art and Design education, Professional Development opportunities

www.teachersmedia.com the new Teachers TV: an archive of educational films on all subjects including craft and cross curricular work

www.craftspace.co.uk Birmingham based organisation with strong educational remit - case studies of school projects

www.craftanddesign.net information on contemporary craft galleries near you

Journals

Crafts magazine; produced by the Crafts Council

Crafts Collections in Museums and galleries

www.vam.ac.uk Victoria and Albert Museum international historic and contemporary international crafts.

www.britishmuseum.org British Museum historic crafts from around the world

www.csc.ucreative.ac.uk/ Crafts Study Centre Farnham, Surrey

www.manchestergalleries.org Manchester Art Galleries historic and contemporary craft and design collection

www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk Bowes Museum, County Durham
....and in a local museum near you search Culture 24

Contemporary Crafts galleries with changing exhibitions

www.caa.org.uk Contemporary Applied Art, London

www.ruthincraftcentre.org.uk Ruthin Craft Centre Clwyd, Wales

www.bluecoatdisplaycentre.com The Bluecoat, Liverpool