

Melanie Bowles

Textile Design

I am a practicing textile designer and currently Senior Lecturer in Digital Textiles at Chelsea College of Arts, specialising in printed textiles and embroidery Principal author of best selling publication 'Digital Textile Design', Laurence King, 2009 and Print Make Wear Creative projects for Digital Textile Design - Laurence King 2015.

The Co Founder of The People's Print based at Makerversty, Somerset House, London as well as an active research member of TED Textile Environmental Design and Textile Future Research Center, University of The Arts. My research, practice, publications and teaching develops sustainable textile solutions that embrace traditional and digital textile design through print and embroidery.

Qualifications - BA (Hons) in Textile Design (Embroidery) Manchester Metropolitan University 1983
Diploma Computer Graphics 2000

Lecturing Experience

I am Senior Lecturer in Digital Textiles at Chelsea College of Arts and I have lectured in many Universities in the UK and Iberoamerican University, Mexico City. I am currently external examiner at the University of Creative Arts BA (Hons) Fashion and Print course.

2015 -18	External Examiner University of Creative Arts.
2016	Lecturer Exchange programme Iberoamericana University
2002 to date	BA (Hons) Chelsea College of Arts, Senior Lecturer Digital Textiles, University of The Arts
2010 - to date	Visting Tutor Digital Learning Unit Victoria and Albert Museum
1991-1996:	Winchester School of Art, Southampton University BA Textiles and Foundation Course AL Lecturer
1985-1989:	West Surrey College of Art & Design, Foundation Course 0.5 Associate Lecturer in Textile and Fashion
2016	Keynote Lecturer at Iberoamericana University, Mexico, Textile department.
2014	Keynote speaker Fespa Digital Textile conference Milan Theme 'Creative Economies'
2013	Keynote speaker Fespa Excel Center London 'Catwalk to Consumer' - Digital Textile Design
2013	Keynote speaker Digital Encounters Symposium University of The Creative Arts

Research

I am an active research member of TED Textile Environmental Design research group at Chelsea College of Arts working collaboratively and on individual practice-based projects. Key projects include Worn Again: Rethinking Recycled Textiles 2009, Lab Craft - Digital adventures in contemporary craft, exhibition with The British Crafts Council 2011 and the MISTRA Future Fashion project with TED 2014. My research focuses on developing systems of sustainable design that engage the consumer in the design process to design slow fashion and emotional durable design concepts through traditional and contemporary textile processes. I have exhibited in prestigious international venues including Audax Textile Museum, The Netherlands, The Science Museum, London and The British Crafts Council. I am also a research member of TFRC Textile Future Research Centre based at Central St Martins, University of The Arts, London which hosts a community of practice-based researchers who explore how materials and textiles can enable a more sustainable future.

Publications

- 2009 Digital Textile Design authors Melanie Bowles & Ceri Issac Publisher Laurence King
- 2012 Digital Textile Design 2nd Edition authors Melanie Bowles & Ceri Issac
Publisher Laurence King
- 2015 Print Make Wear 'Creative projects for Digital Textile Design - Author Melanie Bowles
Publisher Laurence King

Workshops & Events

I have designed and delivered workshop and events which combine traditional and digital textile techniques using co-design and participatory design methods which engage with culture and history through textile design using technology and building communities through social media.

- 2010 The Ballet Russe - Diaghilev - Victoria & Albert Museum
- 2011 Born to Be Wild - Post Modernism Style & Subversion - Victoria & Albert Museum
- 2012 The Great British Floral - Celebrating 50 years of British Design - Victoria & Albert Museum
- 2015 Celebrating Ascher - Victoria & Albert Museum
- 2014 Building Pattern Identities - The Prince's Trust, Makerversity, Somerset House
- 2014 Post Modern Pattern Play - The Prince's Trust, Makerversity, Somerset House
- 2014 Study Aboard, Summer School in Digital Textile Design, University of The Arts
- 2015 The People's Print 'Made in India' Pop up Live Print Factory - Friday Late The V&A Museum
- 2016 Iberoamericana University teachers exchange programme.
- 2016 Brixton Design Trail , London Design Festival.

Exhibitions

- 2009 Ever & Again – Rethinking sustainable Textile Design
Textile Environmental Textile Design, Chelsea College of Arts
- 2010 Hertige Dress (with Kathryn Round) – Trash Fashion, The Science Museum, London
- 2010 The Wallpaper Dress, Re-Think Tilberg Textile Museum Netherlands
- 2010-11 Digital Shibori – Lab Craft Touring Exhibition The British Craft Council
- 2011 Digital Shibori 'Craft meets Technology' Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, USA
- 2012 VF Corpotation - Developing Democratic design system for VANS USA
- 2013 Post Modernist Play The Geometrics – The Slow Textile Group, Kingsgate
Gallery, London
- 2014 The Paintbrush Floral, Digital Encounters, University of Creative Arts, Rochester
- 2014-15 'Smorgasboard' A Textile Toolbox for sustainable design Touring exhibition with
Textile Environmental Design research UK touring UK, Europe and New York.
- 2017 Reimagining Xiabu, The China Design Center, London

Published Work

- 2012 Heritage Dress - Textiles - Art of Mankind – Mary Schoeser Thames and Hudson
- 2012 Mix Magazine The People's Print
- 2012 Works Melanie Bowles - A field guide to fabric design – Kim Knight
- 2013 Works Melanie Bowles - Material Futures – Textile Futures Research Center
- 2015 WGSN 16/17 Consumer forecast - Artisan and Co -creators - The People's Print.
- 2015 Craft Council - 'Making it Local' Melanie Bowles & The People's Print
- 2016 Melanie Bowles work featured in Folk Fashion by Amy Twigger Holroyd Publisher I.B.Tauris