

**SCHOOL
OF DESIGN
THE GLASGOW
SCHOOL OF ART**



Claire Fowler, Textile Design, 2024

UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATI**ON** GUIDELINES

TEXTILE DESIGN

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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

STANDARD ACADEMIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO YEAR 1

- **Scottish Highers**— ABBB including a literate subject*.
- **A Levels**— ABB, plus GCSE English at grade A/7.
- **Other equivalent qualifications at SCQF Level 6 (EQF Level 3) such as UAL Level 3 Diploma.**
- **International Baccalaureate (IB)**— 30 points overall in the Diploma, including 18 at Higher Level, normally including English and Maths. Students not presenting English at grade 5 or above at Higher Level will be required to submit an IELTS.
- **Irish Leaving Certificate**— Four Highers at H2 or above, subjects required as per Scottish Highers.
- **International qualifications**— People with qualifications from outside the UK should contact admissions@gsa.ac.uk for more information.

MINIMUM ACADEMIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO YEAR 1 (FOR ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS ONLY)

- **Scottish Highers** — BBCC including a literate subject*.
- **A Levels** — BBC, plus GCSE English at grade A/7.

NOTE For applicants whose exam results are pending, conditional offers will be made at the standard or minimum tariff where eligible.

*literate subjects include English, Business Management, Classical Studies, Economics, ESOL, Geography, History, Media Studies, Modern Studies, Philosophy, Politics, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology.

The Glasgow School of Art (GSA) is committed to working to widen access, including fair admissions for applicants from a wide range of backgrounds.

The minimum entry requirements apply to applicants from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 20/40 postcodes, as well as applicants who declare via UCAS that they are care experienced, estranged from their parents or legal guardians, have caring responsibilities, are a refugee or currently receive free school meals.

More information is available at www.gsa.ac.uk/wp

DIRECT ENTRY TO SECOND OR THIRD YEAR

This is an Undergraduate Honours Degree programme at The Glasgow School of Art comprising four years of study. Most applicants apply to start in Year 1. If you have completed, or are studying a relevant higher education qualification, you can apply to start in 2nd or 3rd year. This is known as 'Direct Entry'. Accepted qualifications include a foundation diploma in art and design, an HNC or HND or a year or more of university study. The year you apply to depends on the level of the qualifications you already have, or what you're currently studying. You must be able to satisfy us that you have undertaken a period of study equivalent to the first, or first and second year, of the degree programme. You can find more information on our website [here](#).

Important: If you are applying for direct entry to second or third year, we will consider your application from your highest desired entry point and work backwards from there. That means that you do not need to put in an application for each potential year of entry - if you apply for Year 2 direct entry and we feel you do not meet the requirements for direct entry we will automatically consider you for Year 1 entry instead.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

We expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in the English language, which for UK students is normally evidenced by a pass in Higher or GCSE English or other literate subject*.

Applicants who require a Student Visa, and who are not a national of, nor have obtained a degree in one of the countries on the approved UKVI exemption list, will need to provide evidence of their English language ability through the use of a standardised test.

The GSA's preferred test is the IELTS for UKVI (Academic) test taken at a UKVI approved test centre. A full list of English Language tests that may be presented can be **found here**.

Applicants who successfully enrol and complete GSA's Pre-Sessional English for Creative Disciplines programme can also use those test results to satisfy English language conditions.

Our current requirement for School of Design programmes is IELTS for UKVI (Academic) with 6.0 overall and no less than 5.5 in each component.

For guidance, please email admissions@gsa.ac.uk or call +44 (0) 141 353 4512.



The Reid building

COST OF STUDY

FEES, FINANCE & HELP

The annual cost of your study will depend on a range of factors including your tuition fee status, programme of study, accommodation arrangements and lifestyle. We understand, however, that for your effective planning it is really important that you have a good idea of how much studying at art school is likely to cost, and what kinds of costs you are likely to incur over and above tuition fees.

Have a look at the **GSA's Total Cost of Study Guide** for more help with your financial planning. You'll also find information on other costs associated with your chosen programme (called 'Indicative Programme Costs') on each programme page on the website.

TUITION FEES

Your annual tuition fee will depend on whether you are a Scottish student, Rest of the UK student or international student, as well as the subject (programme) and level (undergraduate/postgraduate) of study.

You can find current information on Fees and Finance pages on the GSA website [here](#).

APPLICATION TIMELINE

In order for your application to be considered complete, you must complete the two steps outlined by the relevant deadlines:

STEP 1

UCAS APPLICATION FORM

DEADLINE - 18:00 (UK Time) January 14, 2026

The first step is ensuring you complete your UCAS application via www.ucas.com

We suggest that begin the UCAS application form as soon as possible and don't wait until minute as there's a lot of information required to complete the form. You don't need to complete the UCAS application form in one sitting. You can save your progress and return to the form as often as you need to. However, please ensure you submit this before the deadline.

Read the advice from UCAS to help you through their application process, step by step, [here](#).

STEP 2

DIGITAL PORTFOLIO & PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

DEADLINE - 13:00 (UK Time) January 21, 2026

After the GSA receives your completed application form from UCAS, you will receive an email from the Admissions team at the GSA with an acknowledgement of your application and instructions on how to upload your Digital Portfolio and Portfolio Statement to the GSA Digital Portfolio Site. You can find Digital Portfolio examples at the end of this guide.

You are welcome to upload your Digital Portfolio as soon as you receive your invitation email from Admissions, but no later than the deadline given to you.

The Digital Portfolio site will open to new submissions from the end of October each year

APPLICATION TIMELINE



DIGITAL PORTFOLIO

Your Digital Portfolio is a selection of images of work that you have made, laid out clearly. It demonstrates your skills, ideas, interests and your suitability for the programme you are applying to.

The Digital Portfolio must include no more than 15 slides and should be in PDF format. Remember, you can include more than one image on each slide.

If you are including moving image or sound work, these can be included in your Digital Portfolio using Vimeo or Youtube. Access to these websites should not be password protected and the link should remain live and accessible.



PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

The Portfolio Statement is an opportunity to expand on your Digital Portfolio, highlight a specific project, further detail your interests or inspiration and tailor your application to your Chosen programme at the GSA.

It must not exceed 3000 characters (approx. 500 words) and should not be the same as your UCAS Personal Statement. You will be asked to submit this alongside your Digital Portfolio.

APPLICATION KEY DATES

01

1
SUBMIT APPLICATION
FORM TO UCAS

14 JANUARY 2026
18:00 (UK Time)

Apply via UCAS at
www.ucas.com

UCAS Code **G43**

02

2
UPLOAD DIGITAL
PORTFOLIO

21 JANUARY 2026
13:00 (UK Time)

GSA Portfolio
Deadline

You will receive instructions on how to upload your digital portfolio and accompanying portfolio statement after you have submitted your UCAS application. You are welcome to upload your digital portfolio as soon as you receive your invitation email from admissions, but **no later** than the deadline given to you.

03

3
INTERVIEWS

FROM EARLY FEB TO
MID APRIL 2026
(via Zoom)

GSA Staff will assess your application. If you are shortlisted, you may be invited to Interview. See **Interviews**.

04

4
FINAL DECISIONS

13 MAY 2026

The outcome of your application will be communicated through UCAS.

05

5
REPLY TO OFFER

When you have received decisions from all of your UCAS choices, UCAS will send you an email to let you know all your decisions have been received and you can now reply to any offers you've been given.

If you receive your last decision on or before 13 May 2026, your reply date is 3 June 2026.

HOW WE ASSESS YOUR APPLICATION

ASSESSMENT

Admissions staff access your UCAS Application Form, Digital Portfolio, and Portfolio Statement all together.

Your application will be numerically scored against your chosen programme's specific assessment criteria (see OUR CRITERIA). The scoring is between 1-7 (7 being 'excellent evidence of' and 1 being 'unsatisfactory evidence of').

On the basis of your application score, you will either be:

Unsuccessful

- This decision will be processed as a '**Rejection**' via UCAS

or

Offered an Interview

- You may be invited to an interview by email (see **Interview**)

OUR CRITERIA

We recommend that you consider the assessment criteria when creating your digital portfolio, portfolio statement, and preparing for interview.

It's important that applicants understand, that it's not about having access to the best art and design materials to create work; it's about doing your best with what you have.

SEE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR CRITERIA.

STAGE ONE: CRITERIA DIGITAL PORTFOLIO & PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

DIGITAL PORTFOLIO AND PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

1 Ability to apply practical skills

- We want to see your practical skills and how you explore and use different media and materials. You can demonstrate this in various ways in your portfolio, including drawing, painting, model making, photography, computer-aided drawing and creative coding.
- You could group several images on a slide; this could be by photographing several pieces of work together or by photographing or scanning several pieces individually and using Photoshop, Canva or PowerPoint to combine them into one slide.

2 Ability to show development of your work and ideas

- We are interested in the ideas behind your work and how your work develops from the initial starting point to a finished piece of work. We would like to see your exploration and experimentation with different materials and media in your **Digital Portfolio**. This can be evidenced by images or photographs of sketchbook pages, notebooks, worksheets, development sheets and finished pieces.
- Your digital portfolio should focus on your own work. Try to avoid using other people's work (for example, printouts, photocopies from books), unless these examples are relevant to the content. If including work by other people, you should cite their names.

3 Ability to reflect on the work in your Digital Portfolio

- Use your portfolio statement to tell us about the work in your portfolio. We want to know what inspired you, how your ideas developed and the elements you consider to be the most successful or interesting.

4 Ability to demonstrate an interest in the subject area

- We want to know why you want to apply to the programme. What do you find exciting about the subject area?



STAGE TWO: INTERVIEW

INTERVIEW

If shortlisted, you may receive an e-mail inviting you to attend an interview. Interviews are held via Zoom. They usually last 20 minutes or so.

This is a chance for staff from the programme to meet you, hear you talk about the work in your portfolio and find out more about your readiness for the programme. It is also a chance for you to get a clearer sense of the programme, find out about the facilities available and ask any questions that you may have.

Staff will score your interview using our interview assessment criteria below. The outcome of your interview will be communicated to you via UCAS.

If you are invited to interview (see **Interview**) the following criteria apply:

1 Ability to apply practical skills

- Practical skills are important for creative subjects. We will use the Stage 1 evaluation for this as part of the Stage 2 assessment.

2 Ability to discuss your ideas and development of your work

- We want to find out more about the ideas and development of the work in your portfolio. We are interested to know about initial inspiration and starting points, how your ideas evolved and how you explored and developed your work.

3 Ability to reflect on your work; challenges, successes and potential

- At interview, we will discuss the journey of your work. What did you learn and what areas did you find to be the most successful or challenging and what you might do next? For work-in-progress you could describe what you hope to achieve, what sources you will be looking at, and how you hope to explore these.

4 Ability to demonstrate your interest and knowledge of the subject area

- We want you to demonstrate your interest and knowledge in your chosen subject area, who or what inspires and motivates you, your personal and individual interests. This might include artists, designers, architects, mentors, exhibitions, online events, documentaries, books, journals, archives, podcasts etc.

5 Ability to demonstrate an understanding of the programme applied for at The Glasgow School of Art

- You should demonstrate that you have researched your chosen programme and be able to discuss why you have chosen to apply to this programme and communicate why you consider the programme is the appropriate one for you and why at the Glasgow School of Art.

MORE INFORMATION

Start Early

Give yourself plenty of time to prepare your UCAS application, your **Digital Portfolio**, and refine your **Portfolio Statement**.

The Digital Portfolio site will open to new submissions from the end of October each year.

Reach Out

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions. If you need help with your application:

- For any queries about the application process or issues with our application site, contact admissions@gsa.ac.uk or call +44 (0) 141 353 4512.
- Remember if you're in education currently, you can speak to your teachers or lecturers for support with your application.
- If you are interested in applying to the **GSA as a Study Abroad** student (single semester or one year study) you can contact international@gsa.ac.uk for information.
- If you are interested in attending one of our on-campus or online events you can sign up on **Eventbrite** or join our mailing list for updates on events, exhibitions and more **here**.



DIGITAL PORTFOLIO EXAMPLES

SCHOOL OF DESIGN

The following pages are sample portfolios by our current students, taken from their original application to study at the GSA.

You shouldn't use these as examples to follow in terms of style but do look at how they've presented their work and their making process.

Garden - Inspiration & Development

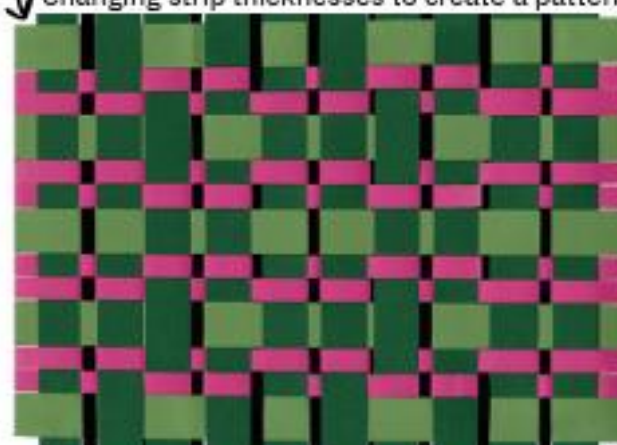


Inspired by colours and objects from photos



Layering thread and paper

Changing strip thicknesses to create a pattern



Mixed media collage and paper weaving



Garden - Experimentation



Experimentation with oil pastels

Garden - Development

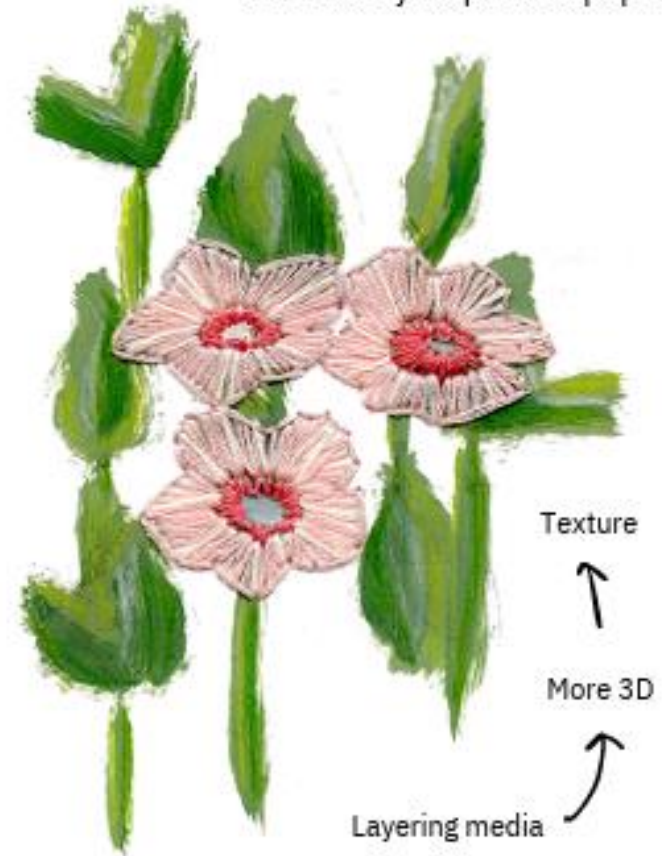
Stencil development and embroidery on cotton fabric



Experimenting with painting and embroidery



Embroidery on painted paper



Garden - Outcome

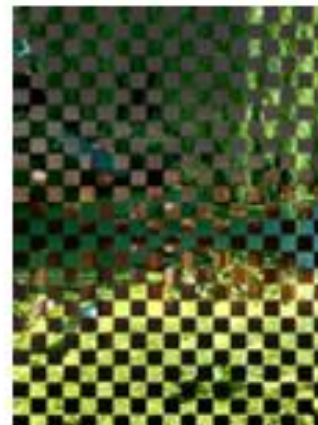
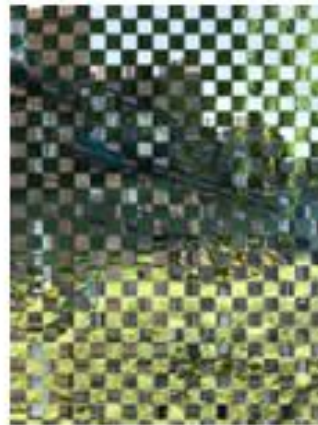


Resolved outcome using embroidery on acrylic painted canvas | 40x40cm | July 2024

Year 1 – Textile Design

Lucy Ementon

Garden/Urban - Outcome



Weaving own photos of garden or city scenes together

Year 1 – Textile Design

Lucy Ementon

Urban - Research & Inspiration



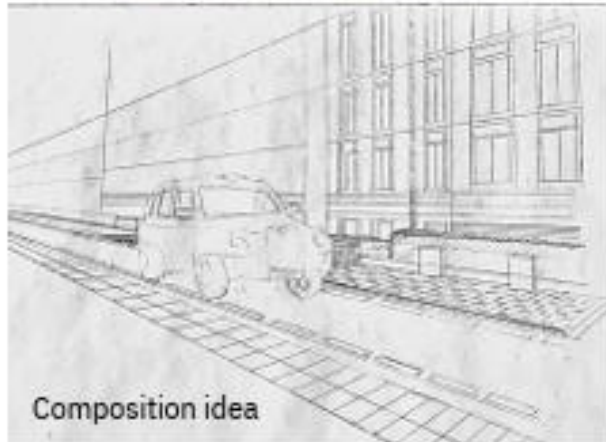
Online
images



Colourless,
focus on
line &
shape



Roy Lichtenstein's '*Interior With Water Lilies*'



Composition idea



Experimentation with urban scenes and inspiration from Roy Lichtenstein



Year 1 – Textile Design

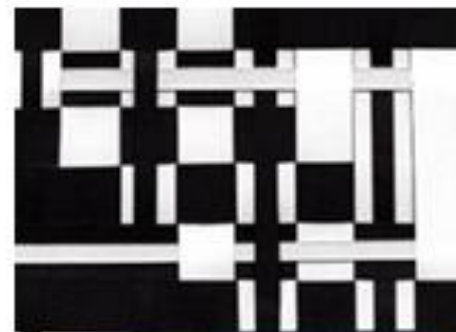
Lucy Ementon

Urban - Development

Digital drawing



Paper weaving



Lino and sketches
of objects I
wanted to include
in the scene



Developing a digital drawing to transfer to lino

Urban - Outcome



Resolved outcome using lino printing and watercolour on paper | 36x55.3cm | March 2024

Year 1 – Textile Design

Lucy Ementon

Underwater 1 - Research & Inspiration



Succulents



Similar form

Existing
coral model



Inspiration from Vanessa Barragão's textile work (*'Bleached Coral I'*) and photos from the internet

Underwater 1 - Development



My own observational
drawings from
Barragão's work



Idea for composition



Experimenting &
investigating forms with clay

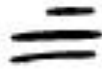


Underwater 1 - Outcome



Resolved outcome using air-dry clay | 28x28cm | February 2024

Different
levels



Depicting bleached coral



Year 1 – Textile Design

Lucy Ementon

Underwater 2 - Development & Outcome

This piece was used as a concert brochure



Resolved outcome using acrylic paint and texture paste on canvas | 60x80cm | December 2023

Year 1 – Textile Design

Lucy Ementon

Mixed-Media Collage and Exhibition of My Work



Media used: paper, embroidery thread, acrylic paint, felt, cotton fabric, crochet wool, oil pastel, stuffing, texture paste, pipe cleaners, watercolour, cardboard, newspaper, air-dry clay on 16 20x20cm canvases



My IB Visual Arts mock exhibition | November 2024

Exhibition showcasing my themes of garden, underwater and urban environments.

Year 1 – Textile Design

Lucy Ementon

Upcycling - Outcome



Preloved clothing

Exterior



Lining



Thinking sustainably



Inspiration from Youtube tutorials to create upcycled handbag

Handbags - Material Experimentation



Upcycling using Tony's Chocolonely and Werther's originals wrappers to create materials for handbags

Year 1 – Textile Design

Martha Hughes



Observational drawings

Year 1 – Textile Design

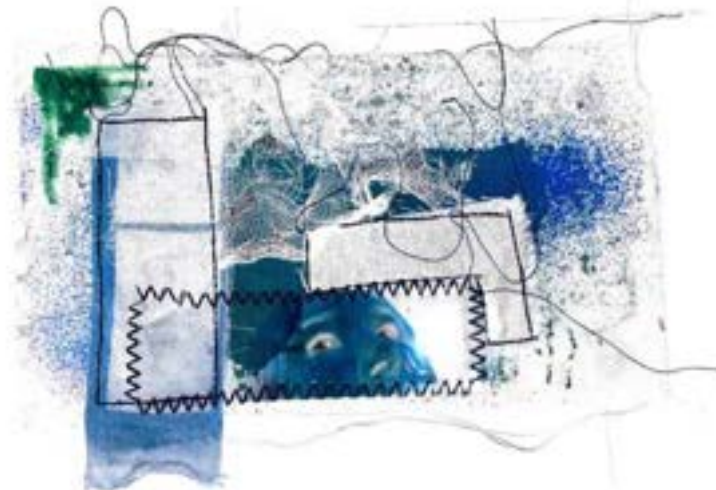
Martha Hughes



Observational drawings and collage

Year 1 – Textile Design

Martha Hughes



Fabric experimentation

Year 1 – Textile Design

Martha Hughes

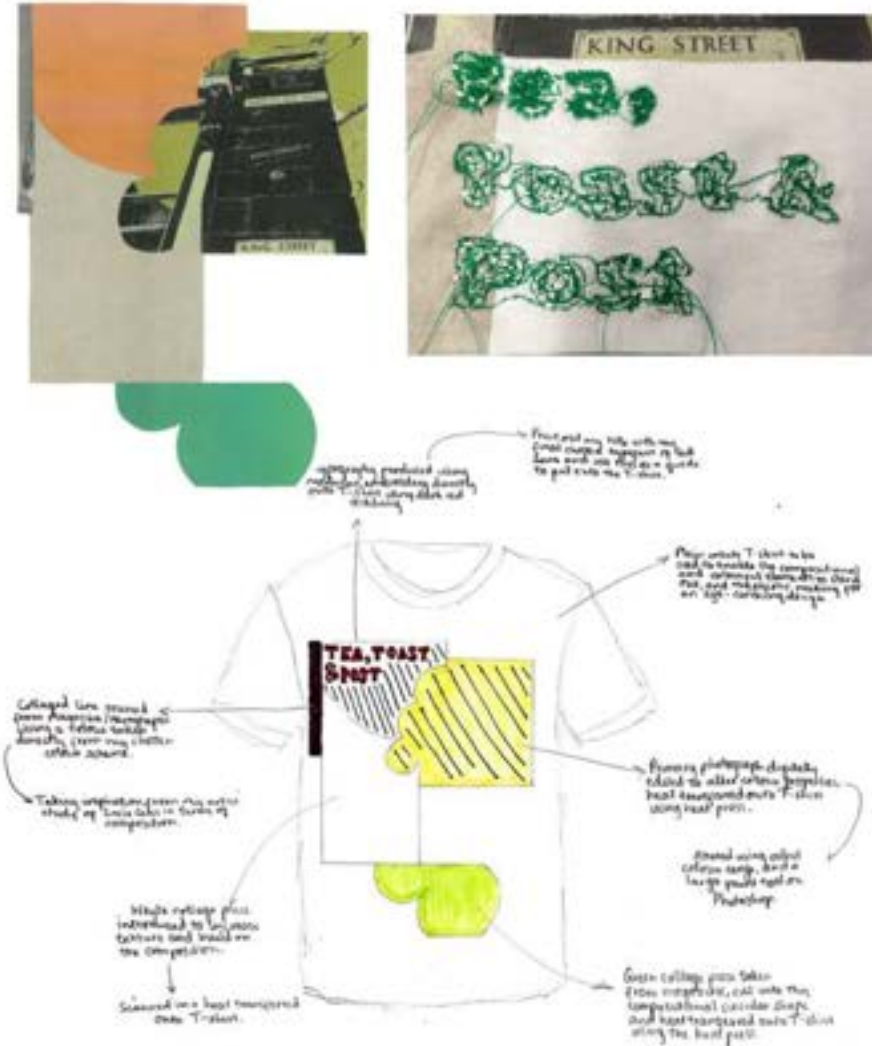


Sketchbook experimentation



Martha Hughes

Development and resolution of a T-shirt designed to promote a cafe.



Year 1 – Textile Design

Martha Hughes



Mood board

These mood boards demonstrate a range of textile methods that excite me and have influenced my practice under the subject matter of sustainability.



Year 1 – Textile Design

Martha Hughes

Completed piece

Woven Top — I used found disused fabrics and wool to produce this top. In addition to woven textiles, I have incorporated digital prints that contain text that carry messages concerning my chosen theme of sustainability in the fashion and textiles industry.



Year 1 – Textile Design

Martha Hughes

Completed piece

Cyanotype Bodice —
Produced using a series of
cyanotypes and
dissolvable fabric with
which I explored the theme
of self-image.



Year 1 – Textile Design

Martha Hughes



Development of projecting onto discarded garments —
Exploring sustainability through digital prints produced from screen prints and drawings.

Year 1 – Textile Design

Martha Hughes

Fashion illustration/ presentation

Exploring the different effects that can be achieved by layering, and how to add meaning through by introducing text. I projected prints (created through screen prints and drawings) onto a disused garment and presented it as a fashion illustration.



Year 1 – Textile Design

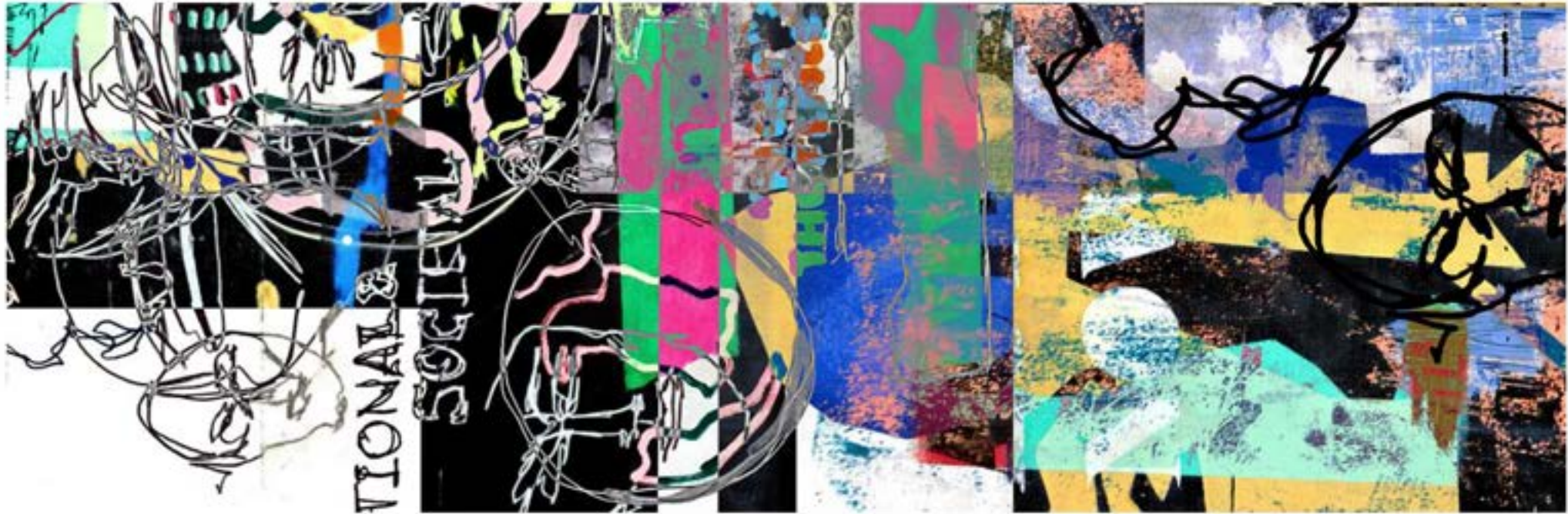
Martha Hughes



**Fashion illustration/
presentation**

Year 1 – Textile Design

Martha Hughes



Completed piece

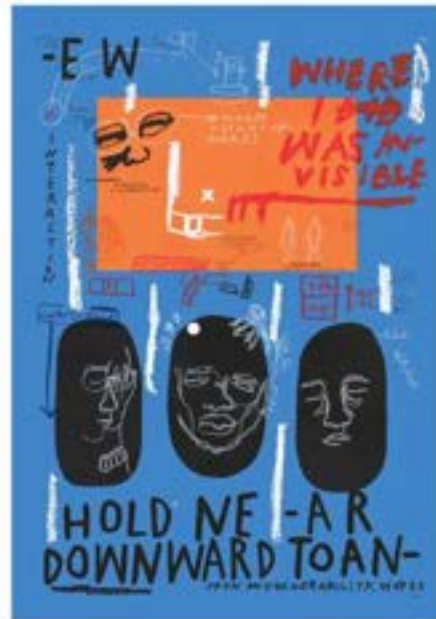
Following the theme of sustainability and using the layering technique, I made a series of screen prints, cyanotypes and drawings which I layered digitally to make this piece.

Year 1 – Textile Design

Martha Hughes



Joy Miessi—
displacement



Research

Artist influence of Joy Miessi with my responses on the right-hand side.

Year 1 – Textile Design

Martha Hughes

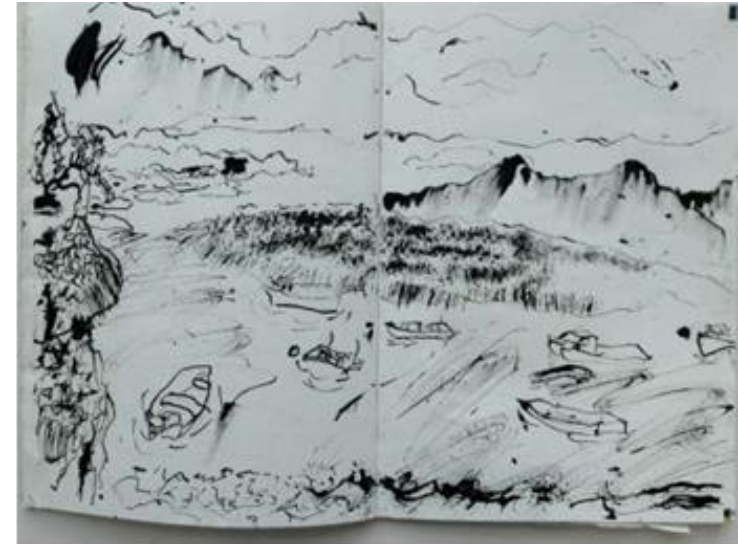


Research Artist Influence of Viktor and Rolf AW16 with my responses on the right-hand side.

Year 1 – Textile Design

Leo Jackson-Horn

The House – An Artist's Book



Walking and drawing.

Considering 360 degrees of vision.

Ink and found 'dipping pens'
(grass, twigs, stones).

Year 1 – Textile Design

Leo Jackson-Horn



Started using cyanotype with negatives of The House.

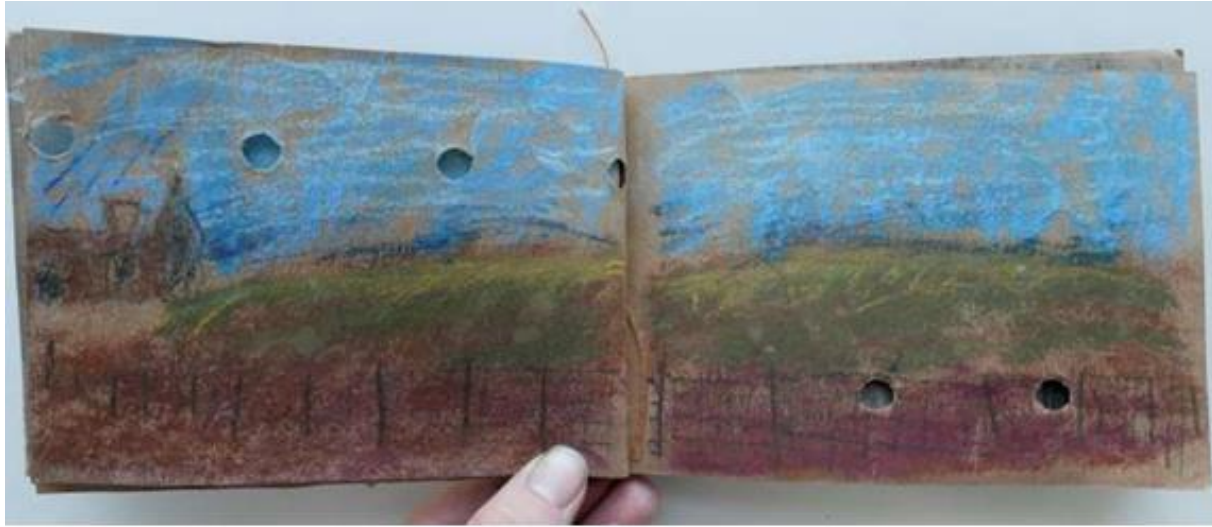


This House
Stood alone
Falling to pieces,
Looking out
Squinting eyes



Year 1 – Textile Design

Leo Jackson-Horn



Considering the route from the road to The House, and the journey of The House from then to now.



Book made of scrap paper to explore the walk to The House.



Year 1 – Textile Design

Leo Jackson-Horn



To show dilapidation, I hammered plants around my page, creeping in on my subject.



Tataki Zome – 'Plant Bashing' →



← Overgrown illustration from Brambly Hedge



Year 1 – Textile Design

Leo Jackson-Horn

Applying stitch to add texture.



With stitching, I am enamoured with the backside of the fabric –
the unintentional designs.

Samples of stitches →



Year 1 – Textile Design

Leo Jackson-Horn

The finished concertina book.

These 6 images came together as a concertina – this form allows me to display the back of the stitching through windows cut into the paper (next slide).



Year 1 – Textile Design

Leo Jackson-Horn

The Final Book

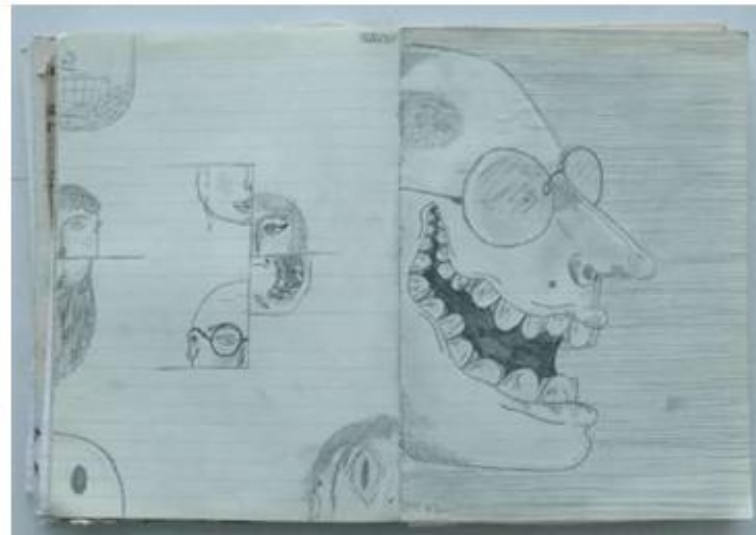
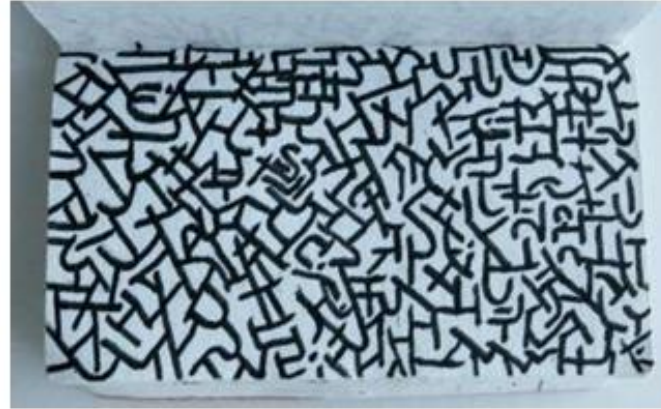


Year 1 – Textile Design

Leo Jackson-Horn

Sketchbook Excerpts

I like to come back to these sketches and ideas when I need inspiration.
A fund of possibilities for when I feel blocked.



Portentious – A Meaningless Word with Meaning



Whenever I had mental block, this word would push its way to the front of my thinking.
So, I decided to play with it.



Year 1 – Textile Design

Leo Jackson-Horn

Fair Isle Knitting - Bookbinding



Year 1 – Textile Design

Leo Jackson-Horn



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I was intrigued by the dynamic nature of this bark.
It's birch that's travelled over the sea from Canada.

I wanted to capture its movement in charcoal.



Mirrored Buoys - Painting

Trying to find my subject.



Year 1 – Textile Design

Leo Jackson-Horn

I explored tone through different mediums.



On indefinitely
Bouncing light,
These green orbs
Draw my gaze
And my hand.



Year 1 – Textile Design

Leo Jackson-Horn



Stages of the painting,
through underpainting,
to adding details.

Year 1 – Textile Design

Leo Jackson-Horn

The Final Painting



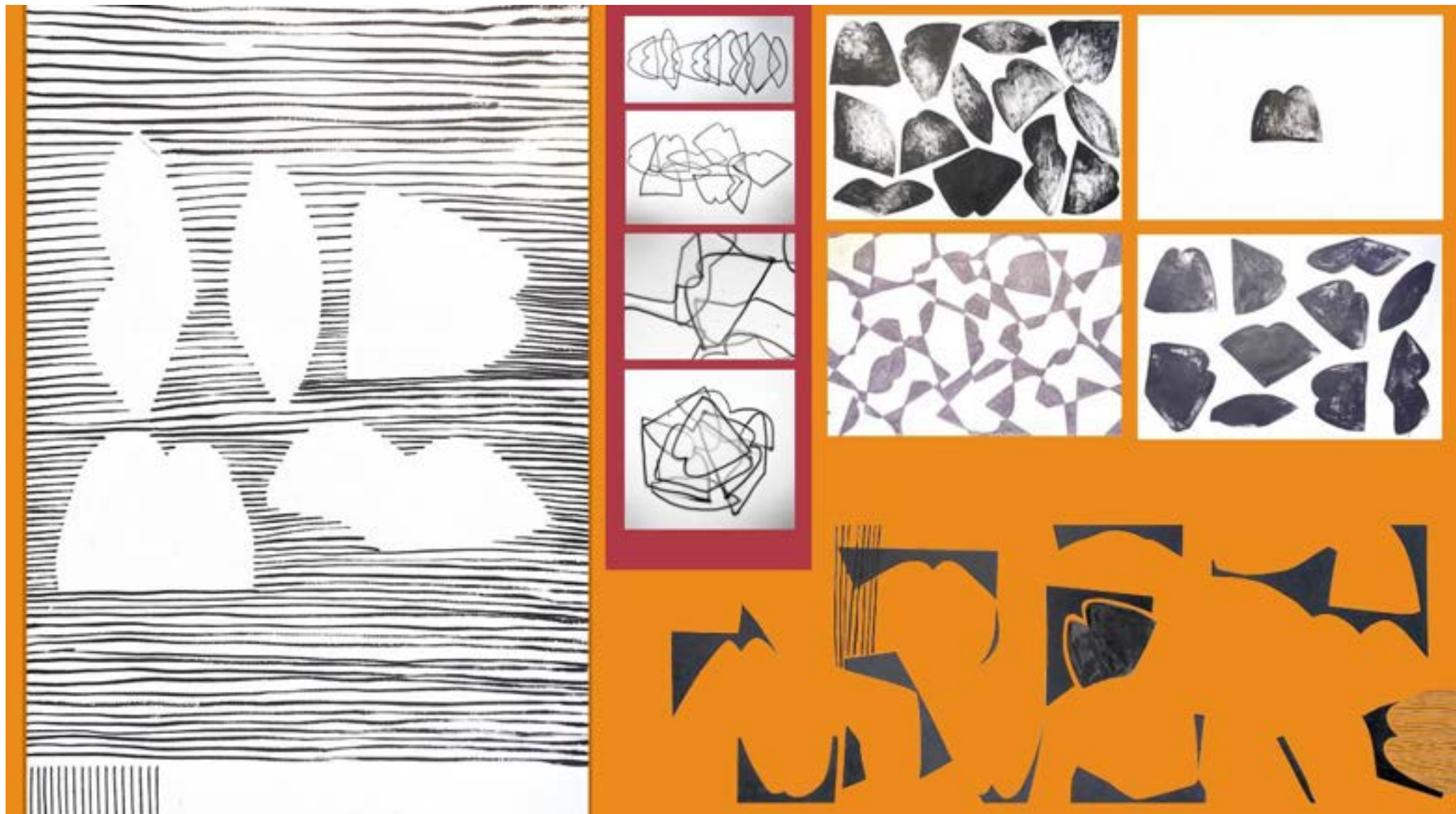
Year 2 – Textile Design

Joana Kelly



Year 2 – Textile Design

Joana Kelly



Year 2 – Textile Design

Joana Kelly



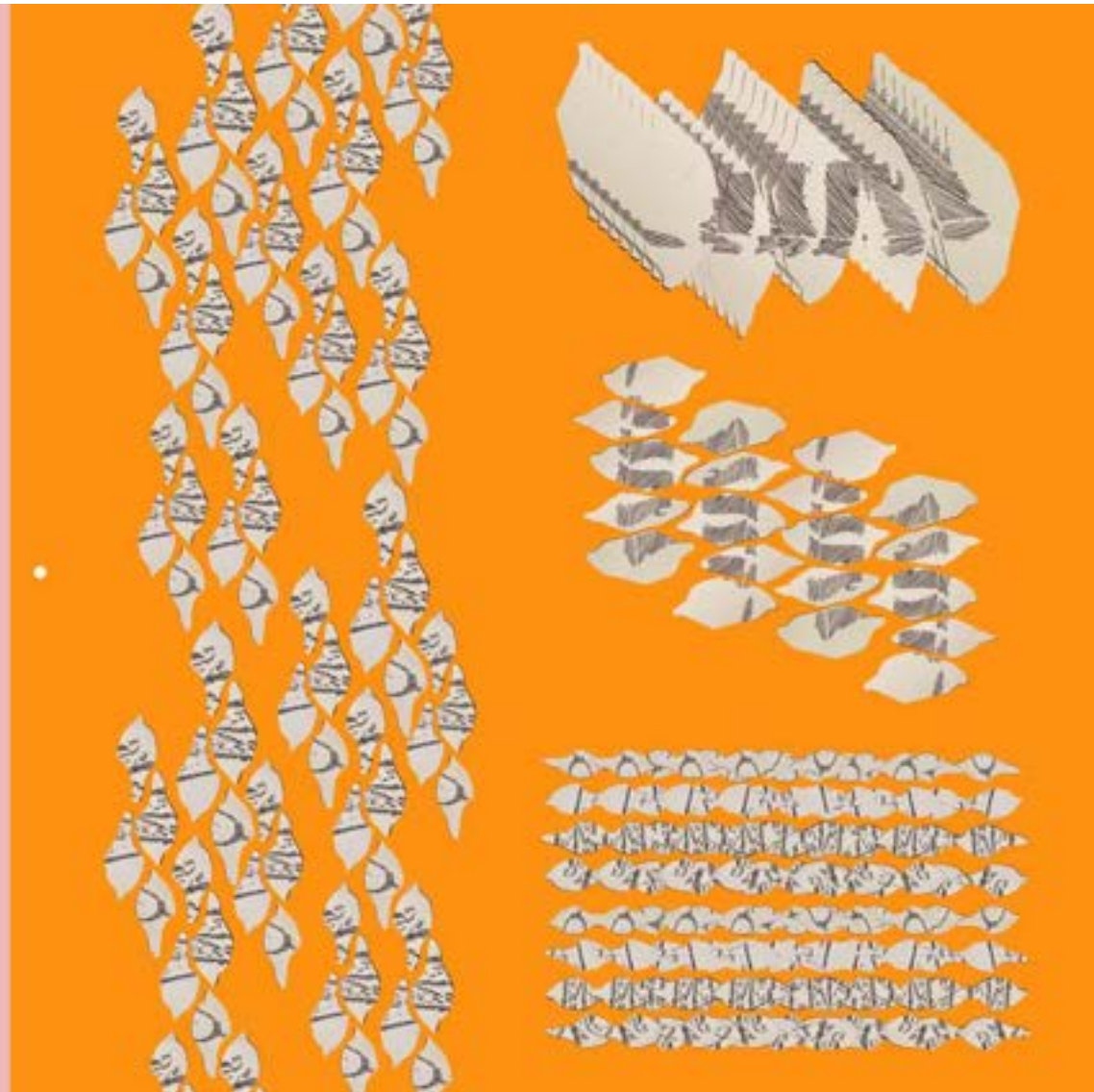
Year 2 – Textile Design

Joana Kelly



Year 2 – Textile Design

Joana Kelly



Year 2 – Textile Design

Joana Kelly



Year 2 – Textile Design

Joana Kelly



Year 2 – Textile Design

Joana Kelly



Year 2 – Textile Design

Joana Kelly



Year 2 – Textile Design

Joana Kelly



Year 2 – Textile Design

Joana Kelly



Year 2 – Textile Design

Joana Kelly



Year 2 – Textile Design

Madeleine Molloy



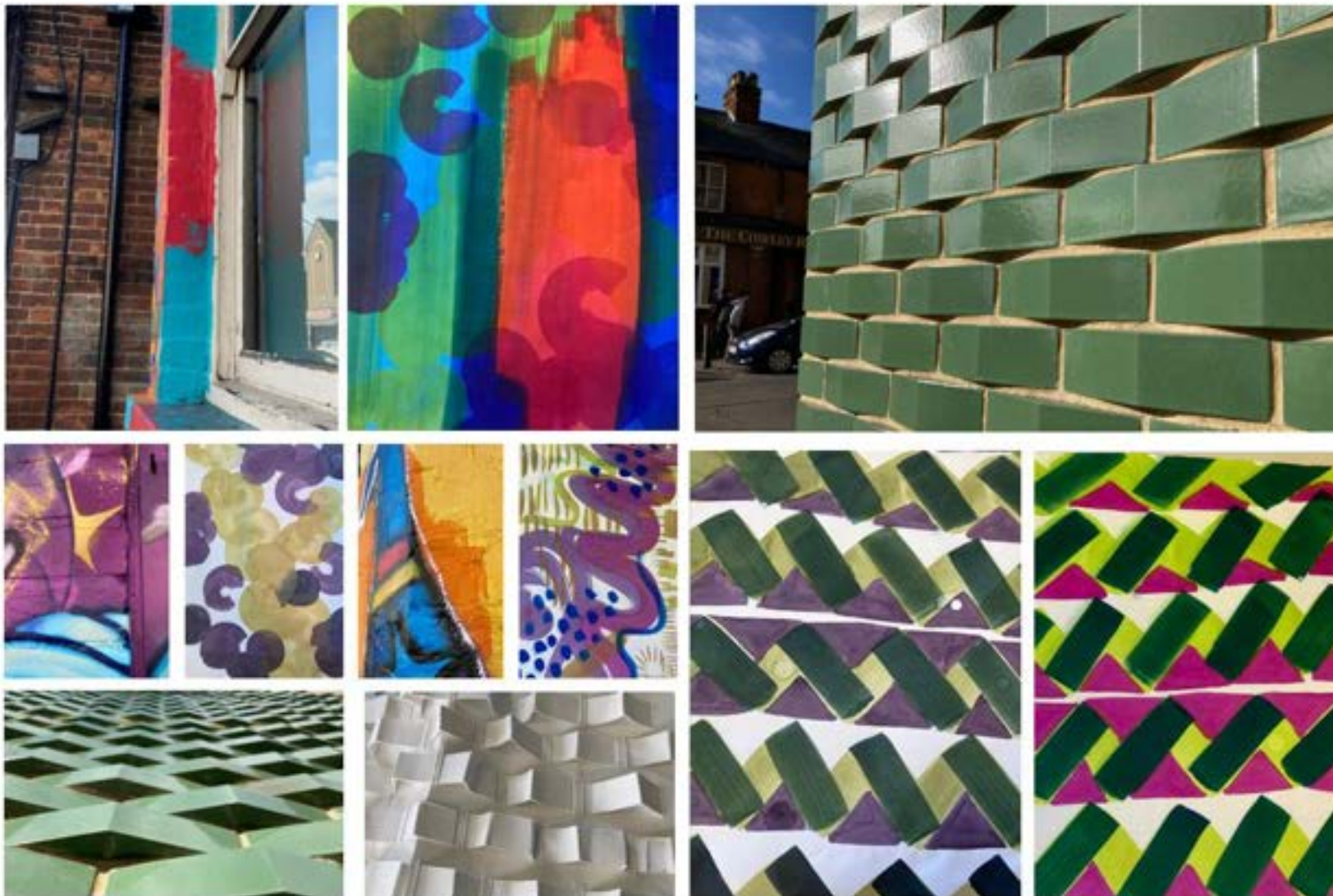
Year 2 – Textile Design

Madeleine Molloy



Year 2 – Textile Design

Madeleine Molloy



Year 2 – Textile Design

Madeleine Molloy



Year 2 – Textile Design

Madeleine Molloy



Year 2 – Textile Design

Madeleine Molloy



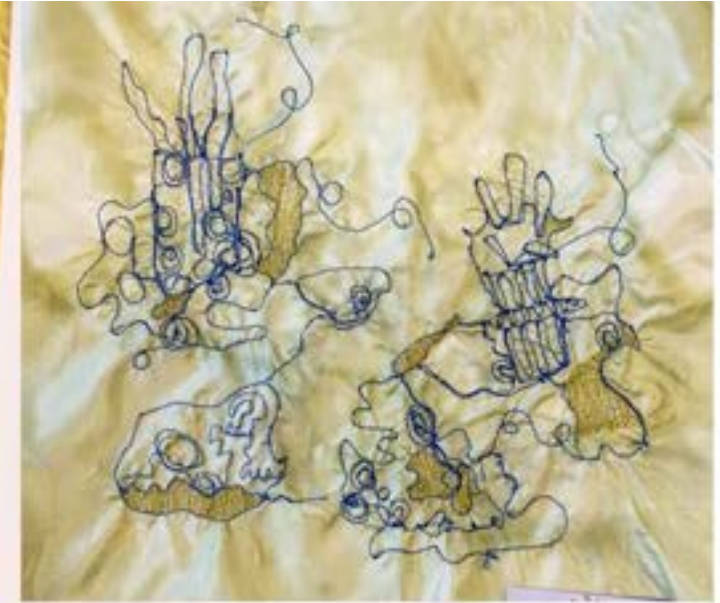
Year 3 – Textile Design

Molly McGahan



Year 3 – Textile Design

Molly McGahan



Molly McGahan

Molly McGahan



Year 3 – Textile Design

Molly McGahan



Year 3 – Textile Design

Molly McGahan



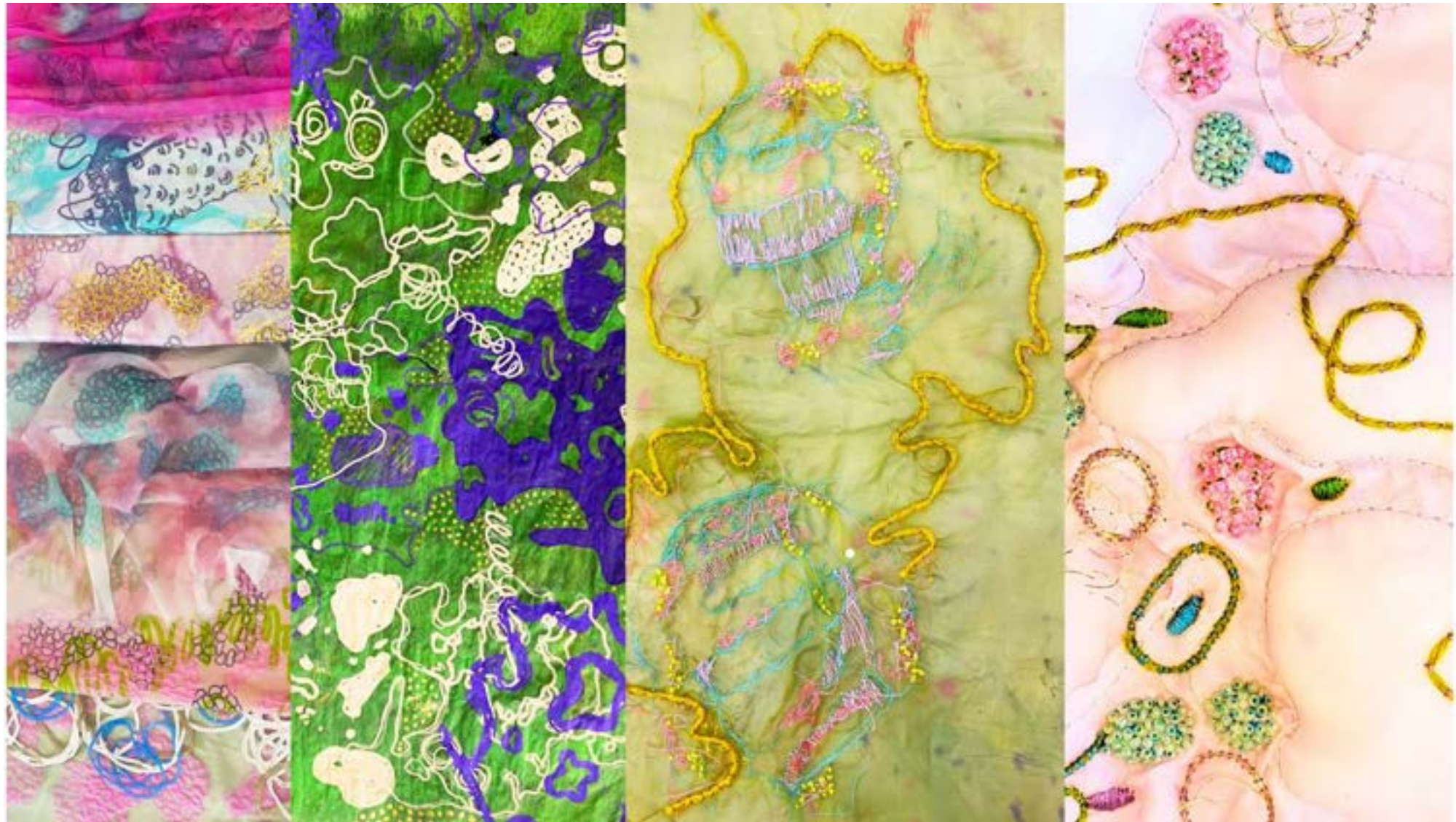
Year 3 – Textile Design

Molly McGahan



Year 3 – Textile Design

Molly McGahan



Year 3 – Textile Design

Molly McGahan



Year 3 – Textile Design

Molly McGahan



Year 3 – Textile Design

Molly McGahan



Year 3 – Textile Design

Molly McGahan



JAGGED EDGES

AN EXPLORATION OF THE
COMBINATIONS OF OPPOSITES
SPICY VS. FLUFFY.
HOW TWO OPPOSING THEMES
CAN WORK TOGETHER
SEAMLESSLY

Year 3 – Textile Design

Molly McGahan



Year 3 – Textile Design

Molly McGahan



Year 3 – Textile Design

Molly McGahan



Year 3 – Textile Design

Molly McGahan

