

SiAG Funding Application

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Now in my final year of textiles, specializing in knit design, I finally have the time to fully explore my natural interests. I decided to choose to write a Critical Journal for the FoCI section of our studies. A Critical Journal is a way for students to explore the themes within their final year's work in a reflective and critical manner. For me, writing a critical journal has been invaluable to my practice and has led me to realise my core values and beliefs as a designer.

“Perhaps when we understand that good design is responsible design, we will no longer need to rely on clumsy, descriptive words. We'll just call it design – a noble and necessary human activity.”

- Susan Szeunsky

When I first started planning my critical journal I knew I wanted a section about sustainability. But through discovering a piece written by Susan Szeunsky, a lecturer of Ethics of Design at Parsons New York, I have realised that responsible and ethical design is what I truly believe in. Designing sustainably is part of designing responsibly, as is a consideration for community, cultures and social issues. Upon making this discovery I found it hard to believe that this idea of our responsibility as designers is not vocalised to us during our art school education. For me it should be one of the first and most important things we learn.

With this in mind I have been trying to responsibly design my final year collection. I have done extensive research into the impact of production of various yarns and in the process I have discovered a range of yarns that are more environmentally friendly. These include Lyocell, alpaca, hemp, and merino wool. I hope to use all of these within my final year collection in order to show others that it is not difficult to source and produce beautiful textiles that consider the wider world. I also plan to design a collection that transcends seasons. I hope to make textiles that are timeless and durable and that can be easily recycled when they are no longer wanted.

Please see attached the critical journal I have written, here you can find more information on the yarns I have sourced and why, as well as other companies that I find inspiring in their approach.

Through meeting with John Thorne I have been introduced to the various ways in which I can communicate the things I have discovered. John suggested that I could speak to the 2016 textile first year's about their role as designers and the need for responsible design in today's society and



Some of my drawings for this project that I will translate into textiles. Mix media on paper.



this something I would be really interested in doing. I will plan to contact the first year tutor, Jo Barker, next term about setting this up.

I will also plan to edit my critical journal into a booklet. This will have more focus on responsible design and will also explore in more depth the yarns I have chosen to use this year in relation to my own work. I will produce multiple copies of this for GSA Sustainability and also for people to take away with them at the degree show and New Designers. With the booklets, I hope that students and the public alike become more aware of ways that we can produce textiles that do not cost the earth and also hope that it will encourage people to think in a more responsible way.

With this application I wish to receive funding to help with the costs of yarns and printing booklets. I will plan to print my booklets with The Newspaper Club, based on the outskirts of Glasgow. Also I will source my yarns from UK and European suppliers.

Here is a quick overview of costs:

100% Tencel Lyocell yarn @ £7.50 per 100g cone x 10 = £75

50% Merino Wool, 50% Tencel yarn @ £12 per 100g cone x 5 = £60

100% Eco Alpaca yarn @ £8 per 100g x 8 = £64

100% Baby Alpaca yarn @ £4.00 per 50g x 6 = £24

100% Merino Super Chunky yarn @ £8.75 per 200g x 8 = £70

100% Superfine Merino Wool yarn @ £14 per 100g x 8 = £112

100% DK Hemp yarn @ £5.50 per 50g x 10 = £55

Printing booklets @ £0.70 per 1 booklet x 200 = £140

Total cost = £597

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at emmikle@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Some of the yarns I plan to use (from the top): Eco Alpaca from Viking Yarn, Norway; Super Chunky Merino Wool yarn, World of Wool, UK; DK Hemp yarn, House of Hemp, UK.