

Level 6 – Research Framework Document

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Summary Sentence or Research Question:

Representation the 'Afghani' dress in context using both 2D and 3D objects and textile; focusing on the role of women within the Afghan community and/or society.

Summary Statement:

The inspiration for my piece came from my dissertation research into my traditional dress 'Afghani' from Afghanistan, through this research I found out that the roundels by the shoulders, dress skirt, and scarf in fact are there to wish the women good health, prosperity and fertility. Hence why I am focusing on round shapes and the idea of covering the objects comes from how women are perceived in Afghanistan covered and concealed at all time. Robert Grimshaw's work also, influenced my work as he used knitwear to cover his objects. I have used objects that symbolize women such as tin cans that would be used in the house; kitchen more specifically by women, Tupperware which I remember my aunts using to store food.

Key Words:

Afghanistan, Afghani, Textiles, Knitting, Ceramics, Robert Grimshaw, Culture, Aesthetics, Colour, Texture, Finish, Commercial, Functional, Sculptural, Craft, Embroidery, Sewing, Covering, Material intelligence, Denim, Tupperware, Household and Culture.

Research Methods:

I have made a mood board of products that exist and ones that I found particularly appealing in order to inspire my own design and making process. I have also used the Textile Research Centre website to learn a bit more about the afghan culture and the 'Afghani' dress. As well as, discussing my ideas with friends and family which is when I found out the pillows stuffed with cardboard is indeed an Iranian culture and had to change my idea. I have also, studied documentaries and videos to enhance my knowledge.

Primary Research:

- I went around Shepherds Bush Market collecting material research
- I took photographs of the dress

Secondary Research:

- I have watched documentaries and videos
- I have looked at the following books for material manipulation techniques:
 - Stitch, Cloth, Shimmer and Shine
 - In the Shadow of Mountains
 - Hot Textiles: inspiration and techniques with heat tools
 - Textiles for this World and Beyond: treasures from Insular Southeast Asia
 - Experimental Textiles: a journey through design, interpretation and inspiration
 - Machine Embroidery: stitched patterns
 - Draw to Stitch: line, drawing and mark-making in textile art

Medium for Research:

I have made a mind map with both drawings and sketches of my design ideas as well as for de-coding my designs. I have used my sketchbook to also note down my thoughts and design ideas. I have visited Shepherds Bush Market for primary material research and got the idea of covering kitchenware from there. I have also done some drawings in chalk pastels, pencil sketches, mind-mapping, photography of both my objects, processes and the dress and film.

Material and Technical Investigation:

The main techniques used for this project are:

- Throwing
- Knitting
- sewing

I have made models and prototypes using jeans fabric, cardboard box, clay, tin cans, Tupperware and wool. I made a box out of cardboard box which is then covered with a cut out of a jean's trouser leg ends; this was a good experiment as it encouraged me to continue with the experimentations of covering objects with materials. I have also taken photographs of the objects being covered in more than one way with the denim and knitwear. Although I had intended to add colour to by pieces I decided against the idea as it was removing the focus from the knitwear covering the ceramics however, I played around with the colour of the wool yarn and used colours inspired by the 'Afghani' dress. I tried both throwing and hand building when making my ceramic vessels however, since throwing was a much faster and more efficient process I threw all my pieces. Each time I made pieces I would cover them in knitwear and record the result through photography which aided me in deciding to use simple forms and shapes as they tend to stand out and look more appealing when covered in knitwear. In order to, further enhance my work I will be adding character to the knitwear by making the top look like a collar and a button. As for the denim pieces I will stick to using jeans cut outs as having bought some denim and trying to stretch the material was indeed not an easy job and very much time consuming and ineffective instead I have experimented with the length and size of the cardboard boxes; sticking to square forms as they are most sturdy and have a better finish and extend the lengths of the jeans to where it can be folded and lean over the side.

I am also using tin cans and Tupperware and covering them in knitwear.

Timescale of work across the year:

Available on page 4.

Identify potential professional contexts for your work:

My product is a commercial based design which can be used in retail stores such as, Habitat as well as any other recycle and reuse based companies. My work can also, be used for potential research as there is much to be discovered and learnt about women in society and that to in an Afghan society. It is an on-going topic and that is what makes it interesting as there is always something new to learn.

3D Outcomes:

I will have 12 pieces of work on display.

- 3 Denim and cardboard pieces
- 3 Ceramics and knitwear pieces
- 3 Tupperware and knitwear pieces
- 3 Tin cans and Knitwear pieces

Presentation & Display:

I will have a big table with my work laid out in groups, a little album which would have photographs of me in the Afghani dress as I will be only having one or two pictures of the dress on display up on the wall as some other work for reference purposes.

Portfolio / Publication:

I have used library books as mentioned previously and taken out parts which are relevant and made a note of it in my journal. I have been adding to my sketchbooks and PDF for Creative Enquiry.

Ethical considerations

	YES	NO
Will you be asking anyone questions (interviews and or questionnaires)?		x
Will you ask people to test or physically evaluate your work for you?		x
Do you intend to run a workshop that involves a group of people?		x
Do you intend photographing, videoing or sound recording anyone?	x	
Does your work involve children?		x

I have made a recording of myself therefore, no consent is required.

Brief outline of ethical considerations:

Since my decision has changed and I have in fact made a video of myself I will not be needing to carry out any ethical considerations.

BA(hons) Dissertation Title / MDes Essay Titles:

The influence of the Taliban in Afghanistan, especially on women and what they wear and the Silk Road.

Task	Week																														
	26 (1)	27 (2)	28 (3)	29 (4)	30 (5)	31 (6)	25th Feb	32 (7)	4th Mar	11th Mar	33 (8)	11th Mar	34 (9)	18th Mar	35 (10)	25th Mar	1st Apr	8th Apr	15th Apr	22nd Apr	29th Apr	40 (15)	41 (16)	6th May	13th May	20th May	27th May	3rd June			
Formative Assessment	■																														
Carry out some contextual research	■	■																													
Foramitive Feedback																															
Examiner Visit																															
Aake models and prototypes						■																									
Look at different fabric types						■																									
Experiment with techniques on fabrics						■																									
Make 3D models in ceramics																															
Finalise form and shape of 3D products																															
Experiment with material type and techniques to go with																															
Finalise material and technique																															
Start to put model and fabric together																															
Carry out a quality control chart																															
Logo design ideas and development																															
Packaging design																															
poster and advertising design																															
Final touches and amandements																															
																	Easter Holidays										Degree show set up			Private View	