

2024 IFFTI

Faculty exchange Initiative Report

Dr. Kislaya Choudhary

(Professor and Chairperson, Dept. of Textile Design)

NIFT Mumbai



राष्ट्रीय फैशन टेक्नालॉजी संस्थान
National Institute of Fashion Technology

ual london college
of fashion

IFFTI



ual: london college
of fashion

ual: central
saint martins

Report prepared and Submitted by:


Dr. Kislaya Choudhary

(Professor and Chairperson, Dept. of Textile
Design), NIFT Mumbai

Objectives

The purpose of the IFFTI faculty exchange was to visit the **London College of Fashion** to foster cross-cultural collaboration, knowledge exchange, and pedagogical enrichment. Since LCF endorses the Unique Textiles and Fashion Programs, focused on community, innovative crafts and materials, and digital processes, a few lectures, research discussions, and visits are proposed. The proposed sessions incorporated discussions, case studies, sample presentations, and visual material. The interdisciplinary postgraduate students, faculty, attended the sessions in an exploration of cultural contexts, design philosophies, and craft practices that fortify design in both institutions. The exchange aims to ignite a lasting connection between the faculties, opening doors for future collaborative projects and cross-institutional initiatives that will contribute to the advancement of textile design and sustainable fashion education in the near future.

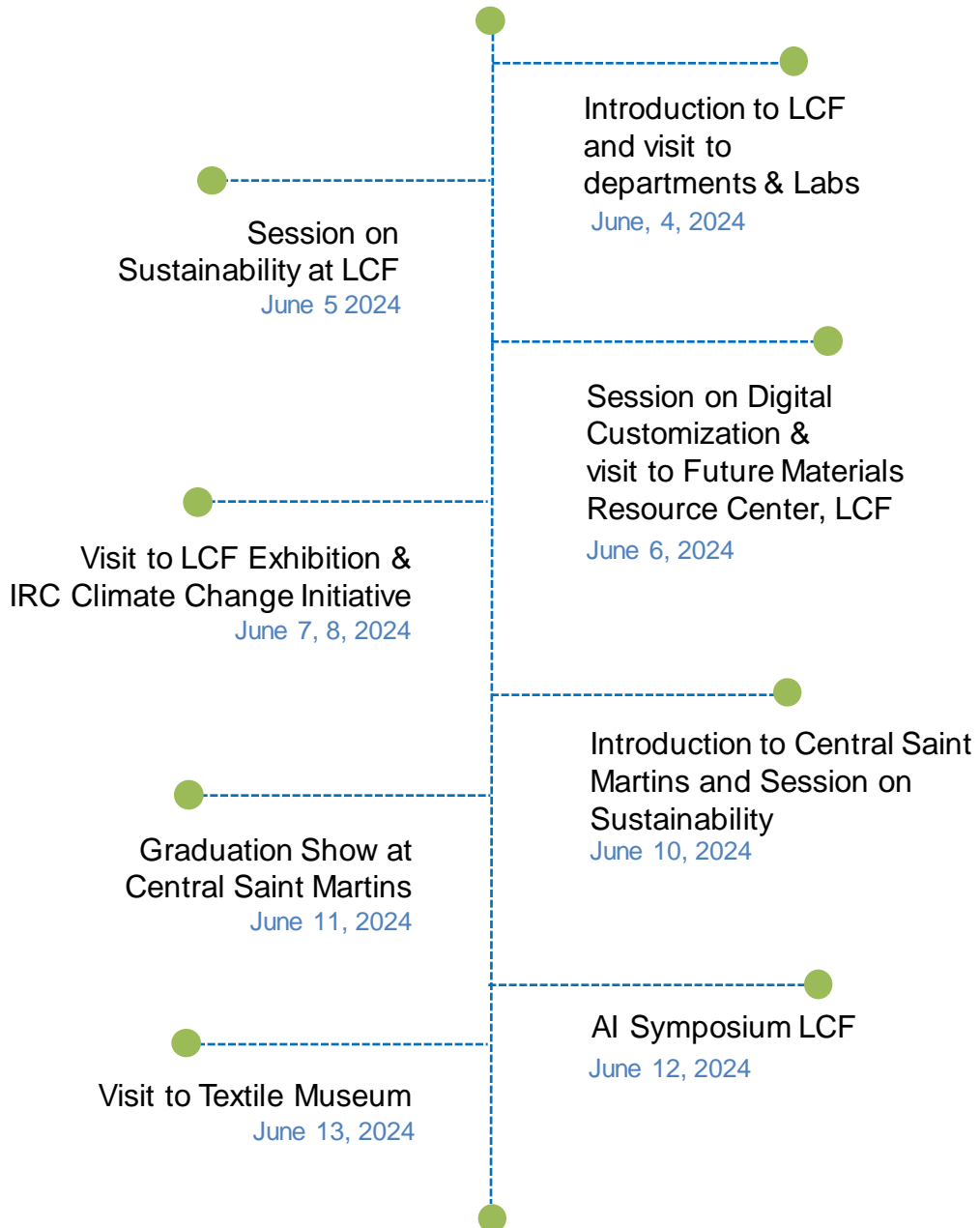
A Note on Sustainability



Sustainability in fashion is not merely a trend but a necessary shift towards preserving our planet for future generations. As Dame Ellen MacArthur, a pioneering advocate for a circular economy in the UK, eloquently states, “The circular economy gives us a framework to rethink our future and the potential to design out waste, keep products and materials in use, and regenerate natural systems.” This powerful insight emphasizes the importance of reimagining our approach to production and consumption. By embracing sustainable practices, we can create a resilient fashion industry that respects our environment, supports ethical labor, and fosters innovation, ensuring a vibrant and sustainable future for all.

Image Credit: <https://www.texintel.com/blog/pushing-the-boundaries-of-epr-responsibility-for-textiles-new-reports-from-the-ellen-macarthur-foundation>

Program Schedule: IFFTI Exchange Initiative 2024



Acknowledgements:

National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), London College of Fashion (LCF), Central Saint Martins (CSM): University of Arts of London & International Foundation of Fashion Technology Institutes (IFFTI)

The IFFTI exchange is a wonderful exposure, experience, and chance to form lasting professional collaborations across the best fashion institutes across the globe. I am delighted to extend my deepest gratitude for the successful completion of the IFFTI Exchange Initiative grant, a journey that has been both enriching and transformative. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the unwavering support and guidance of several key individuals from our partner institutions, home institution and IFFTI.

First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to John Lau, the Dean of Academic Strategy, from the London College of Fashion (LCF). His insightful feedback and endorsement of this exchange application played a pivotal role in shaping the direction and scope of this exchange. I am equally indebted to Dr. Jo Wheeler, Head of International Partnerships, Central Saint Martins, and Anne Marr (Programme Director for Jewellery, Textiles and Materials, Central Saint Martins) University of the Arts London. Dr. Jo and Anne's insights helped enhance my proposal and supported a meaningful collaboration and exchange.

During the exchange, Lindsey Riley, Associate Dean School of Design and Technology, London College of Fashion, and Polly Kenny, Programme Director Materials, London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London, introduced me to the department, organized the sessions and entire exchange at LCF. Special thanks to Ms. Laura Macerio, Library Assistant, for helping me navigate through the Future Materials Resource center at London College of Fashion.

Acknowledgements:

National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), London College of Fashion (LCF), Central Saint Martins (CSM): University of Arts of London & International Foundation of Fashion Technology Institutes (IFFTI)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Rohit Kansal, IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles India, and Ms. Tanu Kashyap, DG, NIFT, for supporting my application and entrusting me with the IFFTI Exchange initiative. I am deeply grateful to Prof. Dr. Sudha Dhingra, Dean (Academics), NIFT, for her encouragement and application endorsement. I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Sanjeev Malage, Head IDL, Ms. Neeti Banga, UI.IDL, the entire IDL team, and the Head FOTD, UI. FOTD, and FOTD teams for their support throughout the entire process.

Additionally, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the IFFTI Exchange Initiative Committee of the International Foundation of Fashion Technology Institutes (IFFTI). IFFTI's vision to promoting global collaboration in fashion education has been a driving force behind this successful exchange. Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues, and the NIFT staff for their wonderful cooperation.

This journey has been a remarkable collaboration and shared pursuit of excellence in fashion education and sustainability discussions. I look forward to the continued success and growth of our collaboration.

Introduction

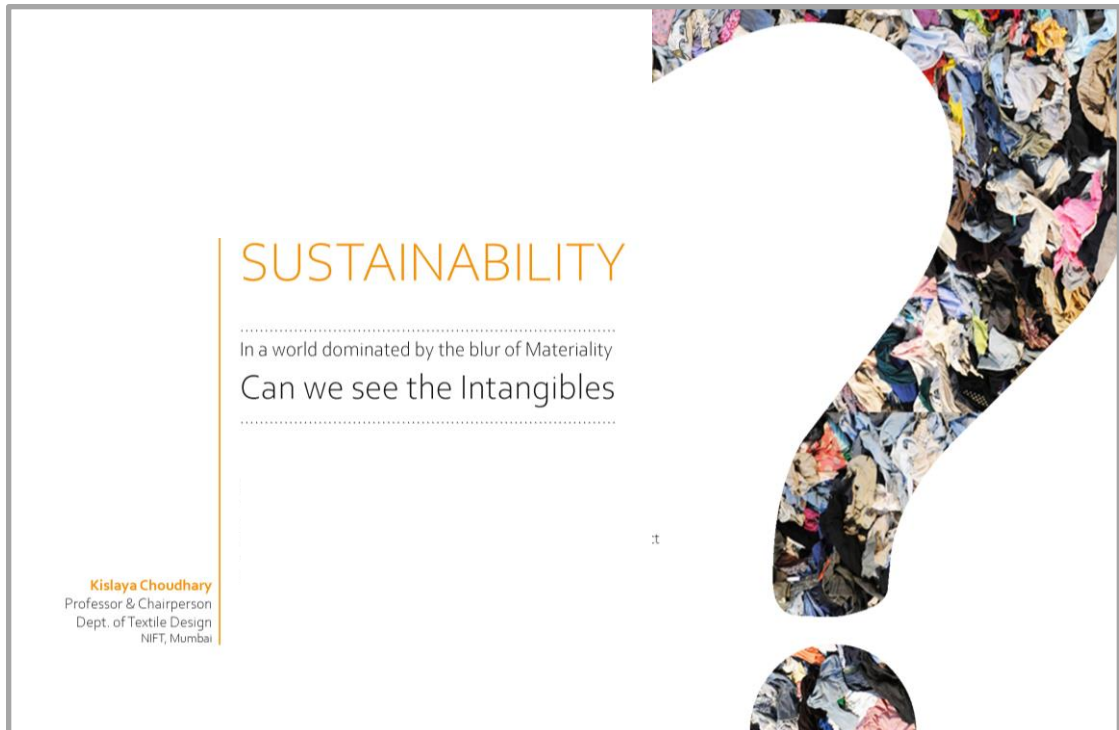
IFFTI Faculty Exchange Initiative was undertaken from 4th June to 14th June 2024.

The purpose of the IFFTI faculty exchange was to visit the London College of Fashion and Central Saint Martins, UAL to foster cross-cultural collaboration, knowledge exchange, and pedagogical enrichment. Since LCF endorses the Unique Textiles and Fashion Programs, focused on community, innovative crafts and materials, and digital processes, a few lectures, research discussions, and visits were proposed and conducted. The lectures incorporated discussions, case studies, sample presentations, and visual material. The sessions engaged interdisciplinary postgraduate students, faculty, in an exploration of cultural contexts, design philosophies, and craft practices that fortify textile and fashion design in both institutions.

The exchange also incorporated visit to V&A museum, attending graduation show at Central Saint Martins and visits to Future Materials Resource Centre at London College of Fashion and Central Saint Martins.

The exchange aimed to ignite a lasting connection between the faculties, opening doors for future collaborative projects and cross-institutional initiatives with focus on contribution to the advancement of textile design and sustainable fashion education in the near future.

Proposed Sessions at London College of Fashion



Exploring the intangible assets of sustainability, this session delves into the rich narratives of Indian craft practices. The session includes an introduction to the subtleties of sustainable design. It discusses the socio-environmental impact of hand-painted crafts, highlighting the artisans' stories and repurposing and re-materialism, showcasing innovative uses of materials. The story of Sustainable Practices and Unconventional Narratives and the role of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives in supporting traditional crafts is an important point of reference. The session reflects on the intangible quotient of these practices, emphasizing their enduring value and relevance in contemporary design.

Session by Kislaya Choudhary at London College of Fashion

Proposed Sessions at London College of Fashion



"The way we dress affects the way we feel."
Judith Rasband

DESIGN
Customization
Opportunities in
Digitally Printed
TEXTILES

This research explores how smart edits in print design provide aesthetics blended with engineered aesthetics, enhancing and customizing design opportunities as per consumer needs in synchronization with digital print design to enhance the body in a considerate manner.

Kislaya Choudhary
Professor and Chairperson
Dept. of Textile Design
National Institute of Fashion Technology
Mumbai, India

This session explores how smart edits in print design blend aesthetics with engineered functionality, creating enhanced and customized design opportunities that cater to consumer needs. By leveraging digital print design, we aim to thoughtfully enhance the body's appearance. The session covers three key areas: an introduction to digitally printed textiles and their customization potential, a case study on apparel customization, and an exploration of home furnishing customization. This comprehensive approach demonstrates the transformative power of digital print technology in creating personalized and innovative sustainable design solutions.

Session by Kislaya Choudhary at London College of Fashion

London College of Fashion, June 5th 2024



The session on Sustainability evolution and case studies was delivered at London College of Fashion's MA Fashion Textile Design Technologies program. The session was attended by faculty and students from UG and PG Design programs. The session lasted around 40 minutes, followed by 20-minute discussions. The session discussed about the intangible elements of design embedded in traditional practices. The lectures also highlighted Indian craft sustainability stories and case studies.

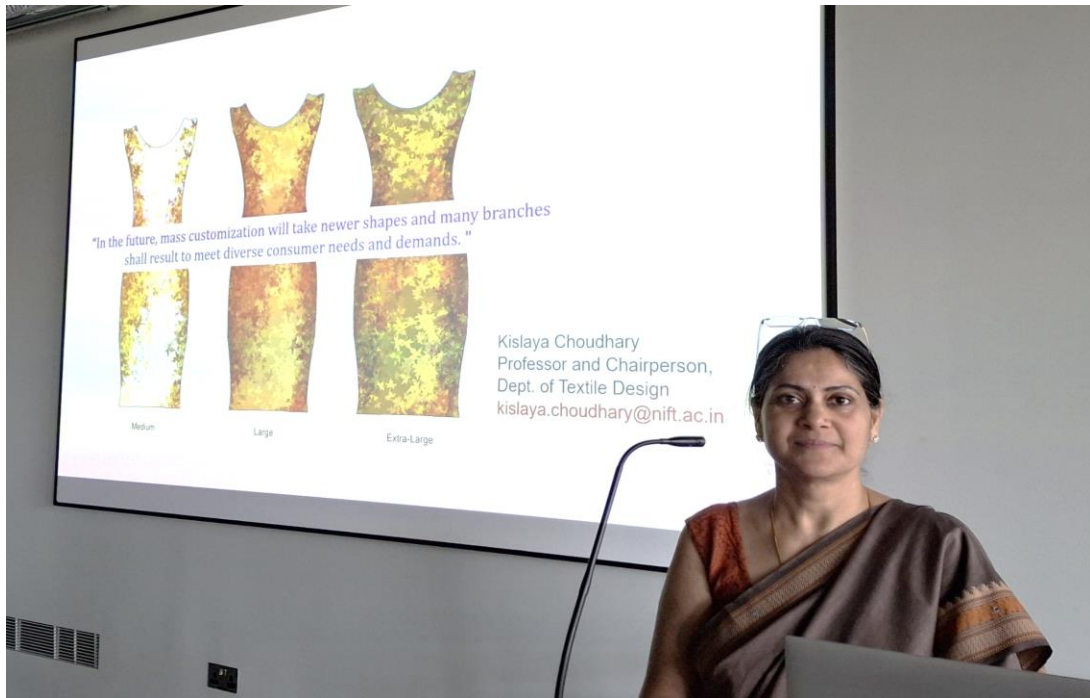
Session by Kislaya Choudhary at London College of Fashion

London College of Fashion, June 5th 2024



Session by Kislaya Choudhary at London College of Fashion

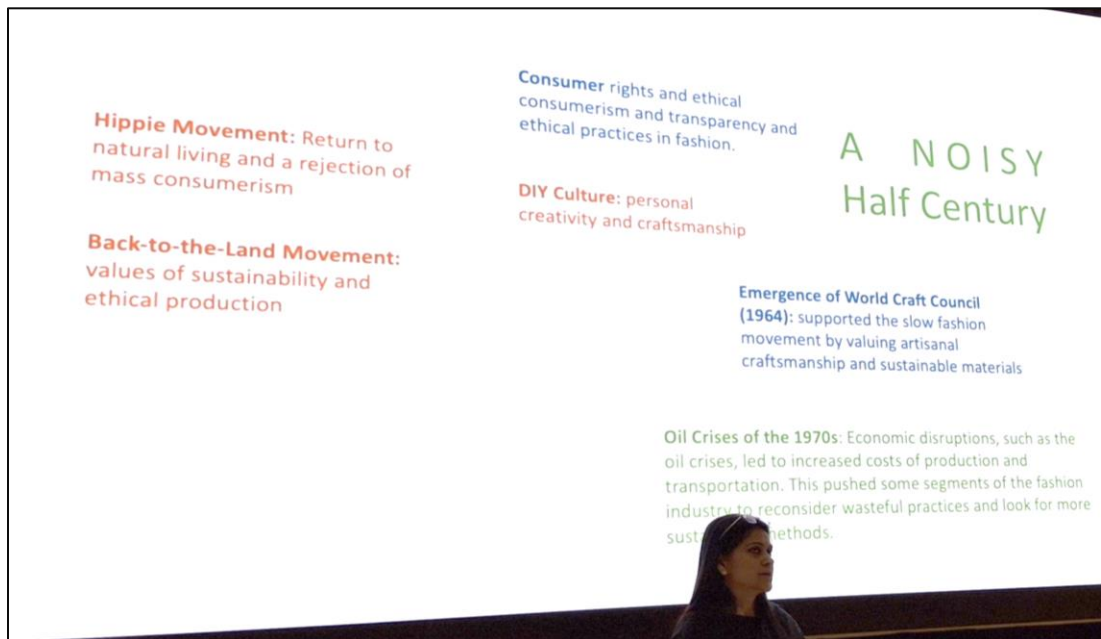
London College of Fashion, June 6th 2024



The following session titled, "Customization Opportunities in Digitally Printed Textiles" was delivered at London College of Fashion's MA Fashion Textile Design Technologies program. The session focused on the emerging landscape of technologically driven solutions to offer sustainable customization opportunities for niche segments in Fashion and Textiles. Students from UG, PG and faculty attended the session.

Session by Kislaya Choudhary at London College of Fashion

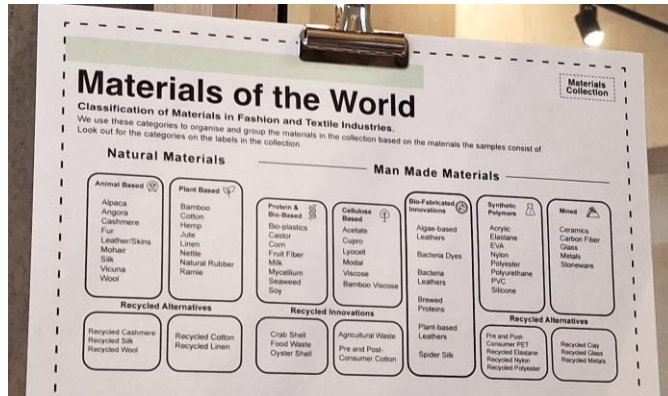
Central Saint Martins, June 10th 2024



The following session titled, "Intangible Aspects of Sustainability" was delivered at London College of Fashion's MA Fashion Textile Design Technologies program. The proposed session lasted around 40 minutes, followed by 20-minute discussions. The proposed talk discussed the intangible elements of design embedded in traditional practices. The lectures discussed Indian craft sustainability stories and case studies.

Session by Kislaya Choudhary at Central Saint Martins & Faculty interaction

Visit to the Future Materials Resource Centre at LCF: 6 June 2024



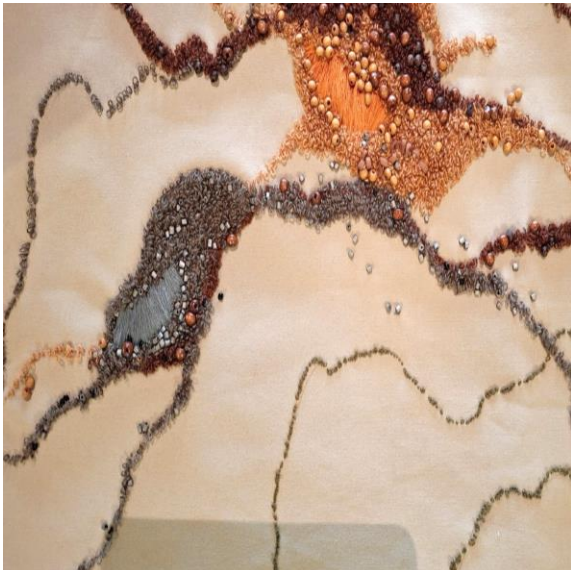
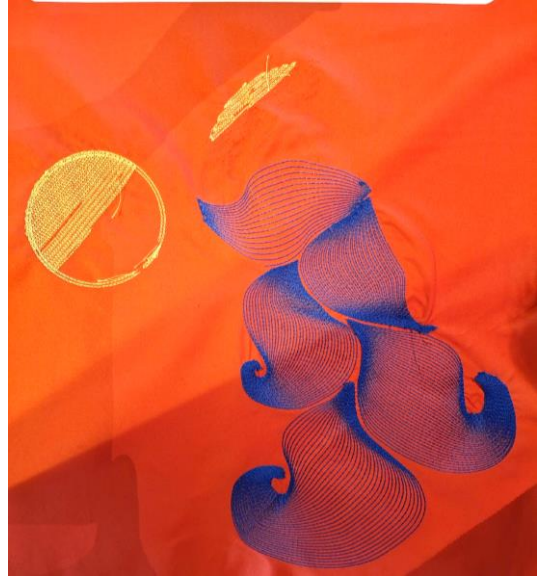
The Future Material Resource Center at London College of Fashion is a pioneering hub dedicated to advancing sustainable practices in the fashion industry. This innovative center focuses on researching and archiving materials that prioritize environmental responsibility and ethical production. It provides students, researchers, and industry professionals with access to a vast array of sustainable textiles, including bio-based, recycled, and innovative materials.

Visit to the LABS at London College of Fashion 4 June 2024



The Labs at LCF serves as a dynamic space where students, researchers experiment with innovative materials and techniques. By merging traditional craftsmanship with contemporary technologies, the lab fosters creativity and supports the development of unique concepts for the future of fashion surfaces.

Research and Innovation: Creative Fashion Surface Explorations

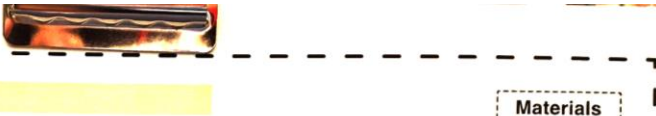


Material and Technique Explorations (Computerized Embroidery and Dyed Surface)

Sustainability Initiatives at London College of Fashion


The Sustainability criteria drafted by London College of Fashion incorporates, inputs, outputs, certifications and Artisanal Community based practices into Designing.

The Sustainability Criteria drafted by London College of Fashion integrates comprehensive guidelines to ensure environmentally responsible and socially equitable design practices. It emphasizes sustainable inputs, such as organic and recycled materials, and conscientious outputs, focusing on reducing waste and emissions. The criteria include obtaining certifications to validate ethical practices. It highlights the importance of incorporating artisanal community-based practices, promoting traditional crafts, and supporting local artisans. This holistic approach fosters a sustainable fashion ecosystem that values transparency, ethical production, and cultural preservation.




Materials Collection

Sustainability Criteria




Inputs / Feedstocks

- Renewable:** A fiber or material that is grown from renewable bio-based resources, rather than from fossil based non-renewable resources.
- Recycled:** A fiber or material that contains verified pre- or post-consumer or industrial recycled materials.
- Regenerative:** A fiber or material that is grown/produced in a way that seeks to rehabilitate and/or enhance ecosystems as measured by net gains in specific indicators.




Outputs / Circularity

- Recyclable:** A fiber or material that has been verified to be reprocessed into industrial recovery recycling systems.
- Compostable:** A material that has been verified to break down by micro-organisms into carbon dioxide and biomass through industrial recovery systems with specific time and physical conditions. It has been verified to not release anything harmful into the environment.
- Biodegradable:** A material that has been verified to break down by micro-organisms into carbon dioxide and biomass through industrial recovery systems with specific time and physical conditions.



Certifications: A recognised industry standard that verifies improved environmental, social, and animal welfare practices through the entire supply chain and is tested by third-party organization to ensure compliance.



Artisanal/Community Based: A material that has been made in a traditional way that honors a culture, community and/or peoples, often using slow practices, craft and hand skills.

To learn about intersectional sustainability, visit UAL Centre for Sustainable Fashion's website.

Sustainability Criteria by London College of Fashion

Sustainability Initiatives at London College of Fashion

Under the guidance of the Center for Sustainable Fashion (CSF), LCF launched the first MA course in sustainability and fashion in history in 2007. The course deliberately integrated sustainability into the course material, assessment criteria, and learning goals.

The Center for Sustainable Fashion (CSF) investigates how design for sustainability may be applied to the fashion industry as a creative and commercial endeavor.

Research, education, and knowledge sharing with industry are the three main overlapping domains through which the Centre for Sustainable Fashion (CSF) creates and advances the discipline of Design for Sustainability.

Through transformative design that addresses the ecological, social, economic, & cultural objectives of fashion, CSF seeks to question, provoke, and disrupt the current quo in the industry.



UAL Sustainability Initiative by London College of Fashion

<https://www.arts.ac.uk/research/research-centres/centre-for-sustainable-fashion>

Visit to the Graduation Show at Central Saint Martins



Central Saint Martins Graduation Show: Preview

Centre for Fashion Curation: British Folk Costume Exhibition

Making more Mischief

Folk costume in Britain

Folk communities, throughout the world, come together to celebrate seasonal events, folk characters, anniversaries and local skills. Music dance, and costume are vital to their expression. This exhibition explores the costumes and culture of just some of the many, diverse, folk cultures thriving in Britain today.

Folk costumes are often made and/or customised by the wearer. Extensive use is made of recycled materials, along with local plants and flowers. Costumes often hold deeply personal meanings for their makers and wearers. In this show, where possible, they narrate their own stories. Folk celebrations take place in urban as well as rural spaces. Folk is rooted in culture. As culture changes so do folk practices. We can see evidence of this regarding politics, class, gender, sexuality, and identity.

Making More Mischief expands upon Making Mischief: Folk Costume in Britain staged at Compton Verney (2023) and places more emphasis on London folk cultures, diversity and making processes.



ual: centre for fashion curation

The Making More Mischief: Folk Costume in Britain exhibition is generously supported by funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

A celebration and representation of Folk communities, costumes and cultural heritage thriving in Britain today. The Making More Mischief: Folk Costume in Britain exhibition was supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and curated by UAL, Center for Fashion Education, Musuem of British Folklore.

Centre for Fashion Curation: British Folk Costume Exhibition

CREDITS

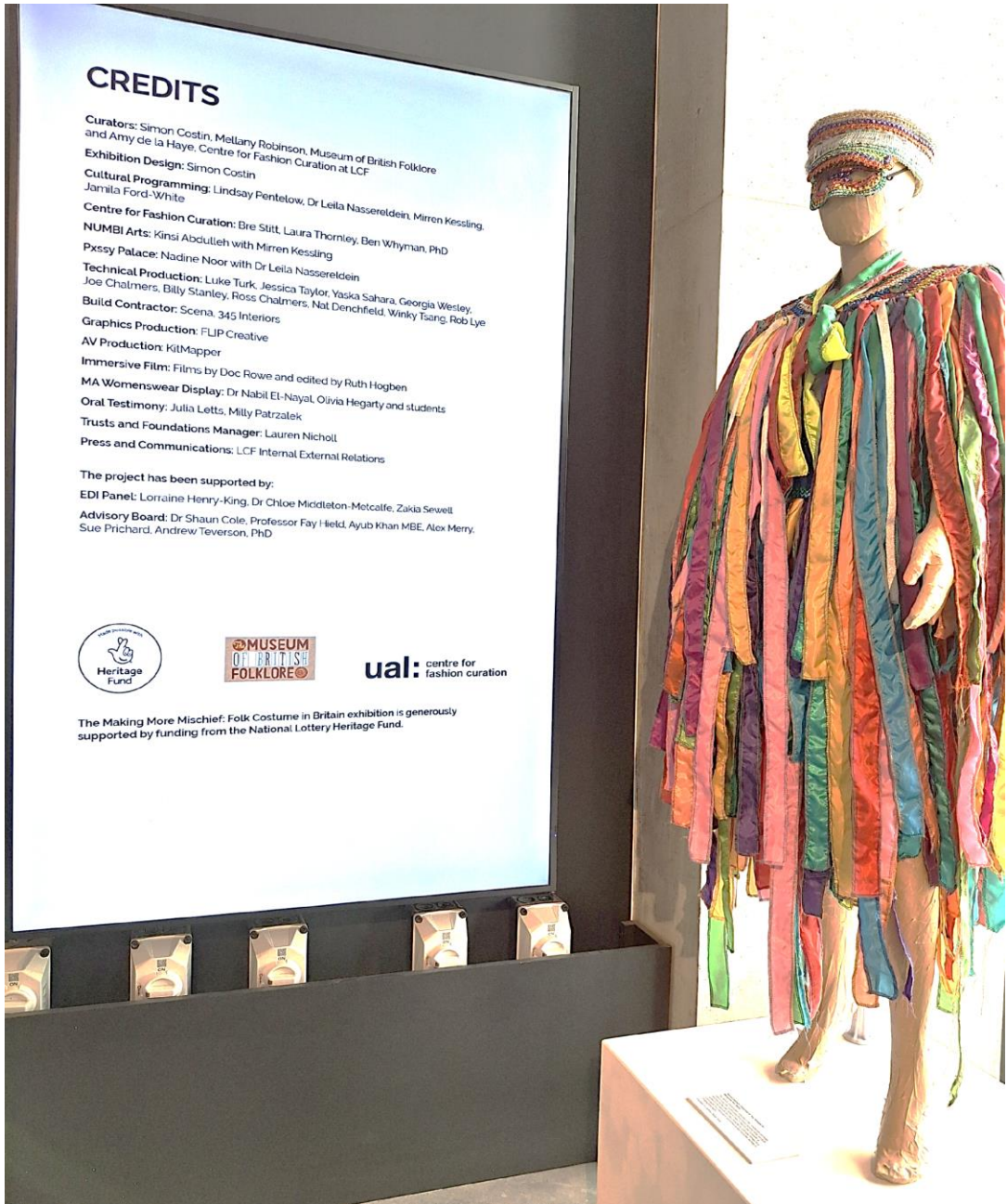
Curators: Simon Costin, Mellany Robinson, Museum of British Folklore and Amy de la Haye, Centre for Fashion Curation at LCF
Exhibition Design: Simon Costin
Cultural Programming: Lindsay Pentelow, Dr Leila Nassereldin, Mirren Kessling, Jamila Ford-White
Centre for Fashion Curation: Bre Stitt, Laura Thornley, Ben Whyman, PhD
NUMBI Arts: Kinsi Abdulrah with Mirren Kessling
Pussy Palace: Nadine Noor with Dr Leila Nassereldin
Technical Production: Luke Turk, Jessica Taylor, Yaska Sahara, Georgia Wesley, Joe Chalmers, Billy Stanley, Ross Chalmers, Nat Denchfield, Winky Tsang, Rob Lye
Build Contractor: Scena, 345 Interiors
Graphics Production: FLJP Creative
AV Production: KitMapper
Immersive Film: Films by Doc Rowe and edited by Ruth Hogben
MA Womenswear Display: Dr Nabil El-Nayal, Olivia Hegarty and students
Oral Testimony: Julia Letts, Milly Patrzalek
Trusts and Foundations Manager: Lauren Nicholl
Press and Communications: LCF Internal External Relations

The project has been supported by:
EDI Panel: Lorraine Henry-King, Dr Chloe Middleton-Metcalf, Zakiya Sewell
Advisory Board: Dr Shaun Cole, Professor Fay I Field, Ayub Khan MBE, Alex Merry, Sue Prichard, Andrew Teverson, PhD

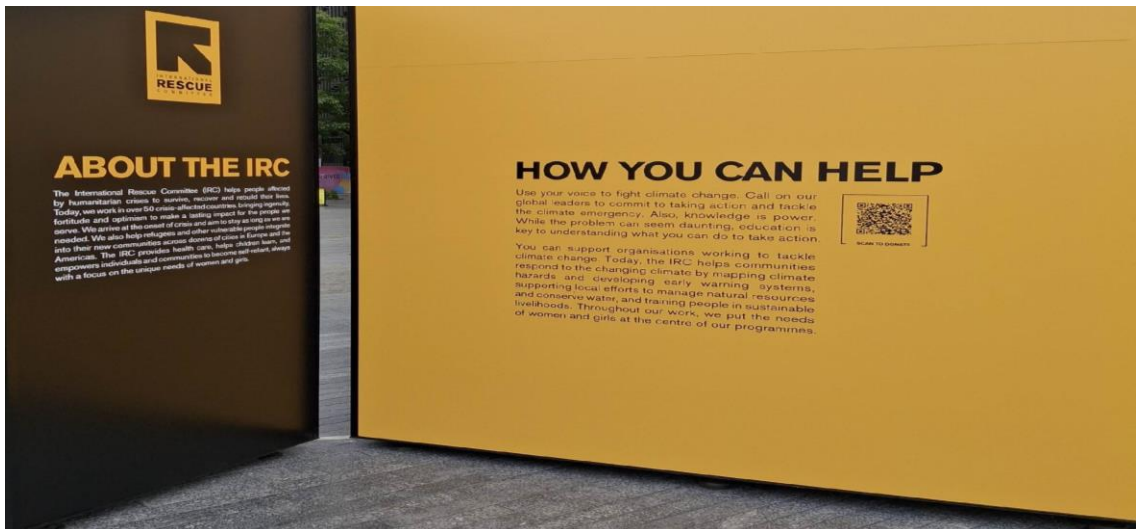


ual: centre for fashion curation

The Making More Mischief: Folk Costume in Britain exhibition is generously supported by funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



Visit to The IRC Climate Change Initiative



The IRC helps communities respond to the changing climate by mapping climate hazards and developing early warning systems, supporting local efforts to manage natural resources and conserve water, and training people in sustainable livelihoods.

Précis

The IFFTI (International Foundation of Fashion Technology Institutes) Exchange Initiative at the London College of Fashion represents a significant stride towards fostering international collaboration and innovation in the fashion education sector. This initiative, aimed at promoting cross-cultural exchange and knowledge sharing among fashion institutes and initiating discussions on sustainability best practices. The sessions on the Intangibles of Sustainability exchanges thought process between students and faculty from diverse cultural and academic backgrounds. It has been a great opportunity to gain invaluable insights into global fashion trends, production techniques, and marketing strategies, equipping them with a more comprehensive understanding of the industry. This cross-pollination of ideas is essential for the evolution of fashion, pushing the boundaries of traditional design and encouraging sustainable practices and technological advancements.

IFFTI Exchange Initiative has strengthened the professional networks of participants. Building connections with peers and industry professionals from around the world opens up numerous career opportunities and collaborations. For faculty and researchers, these connections foster collaborative research projects and publications, enhancing their academic and professional profiles.

The London College of Fashion, through the IFFTI Exchange Initiative, has also reaffirmed its position as a leader in fashion education. By actively participating in and hosting international exchanges, the institution demonstrates its commitment to providing a world-class education that is both comprehensive and inclusive. Through fostering international collaboration, promoting cultural understanding, and encouraging innovation, the initiative has created a dynamic and enriching environment for me as a participant. As the fashion industry continues to evolve, such initiatives will be crucial in shaping the future of fashion education and ensuring that it remains responsive to global trends and challenges.



What are future Collaboration prospects?



- Resource Exchange with regards to Indigenous and Innovative Materials
- Faculty and Student Exchange
- Collaborative Research & Sustainability Initiatives
- The AI symposium highlighted AI's potential to transform the fashion industry, driving innovation and sustainability in unprecedented ways.
- Knowledge Exchange with regards to the Creative Innovation Skills and Emerging fields in Design
- Creative Community Exchange
- Global Research and Sustainability Initiatives

Image Credit: <https://www.texintel.com/blog/pushing-the-boundaries-of-epr-responsibility-for-textiles-new-reports-from-the-ellen-macarthur-foundation>

Important References

- <https://www.arts.ac.uk/colleges/london-college-of-fashion>
- <https://cfda.com/resources-tools/sustainability-resource-hub/sustainability-a-z-resources/detail/ual-center-for-sustainable-fashion>
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- <https://www.arts.ac.uk/colleges/central-saint-martins>
- <https://www.arts.ac.uk/colleges/central-saint-martins/whats-on/central-saint-martins-shows-2024>
- <https://www.arts.ac.uk/colleges/central-saint-martins/research-at-csm>
- <https://www.nift.ac.in/>
- <https://site.iffi.org/>



Dr. Kislaya Choudhary

Professor & Chairperson,
Dept. of Textile Design
National Institute Of Fashion Technology,
(Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India)

E mail: kislaya.choudhary@nift.ac.in

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namaste