

Connecting Sensory Perception and Fashion Design

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How to connect sensory perception research with more sustainable craftsmanship?

Hypo- and hyper-sensitivity have always affected fashion users. Studies show that 20 % of the population is highly-sensitive to materials, textures, colours, light, sound and smell. **Neurodiversity** describes the idea that people experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways and there is no one "right" way of thinking, learning, and behaving; therefore, it is impossible to design universal sensory applications. I can see the value of generating knowledge in peoples' unique sensory perception of garments, and equally, how these features could be more effectively distributed by advanced technologies in the fashion and textile industries. Whereby highly-sensitive users are the experts in their lived **sensory experiences**, fashion designers are the experts in material qualities, garment construction and fashion design. Therefore, how can we collaborate to share tacit knowledge and make these dialogues come to life in various textile applications on objects, spaces, or bodies?

Through textiles, I explore how we can design, control, and measure **senses** of touch, vision, kinaesthetic, sound and smell to create **multisensory textiles** that improve object-user interaction and ultimately support users' **well-being**. Designing with the senses offers valuable question-based research that brings together tangible and intangible parameters of emotional and physical **comfort**. Therefore, an empathic sensory fashion is not an alternative,

but should be considered more as a somaesthetic and dialogue methodology that could effectively connect fashion design with the healthcare industry.

The "**Playwear Collection**" focuses on solidarity with the sensory needs of **autistic** kids. It aims to inclusively correspond to the everyday struggles related to clothing and dressing up. The **collaborative work** between therapists, users, and designers has assured garments' functionality and reliability.

The response to this challenge is a range of innovative and adaptive kids-wear apparel that works as an **alternative therapy** through its weighted components. It takes a contemporary approach to currently available therapeutic garments that often have product and healthcare aesthetics.

Seamless and laser-cut panels are made from smooth sportswear fabrics and are fused with bonding and hidden stitches so that there are no irritating threads or edges close to the skin. Pieces enable an intimate connection between the body and the external objects by exploring their calming features. The **compressive** panels bring peace, help to balance stress and control your body and mind while walking, sleeping, or sitting. They are positioned on most tensed areas of the body. Moreover, their 3D surface allows for palm massage, for users who may need any extra stimulation.

How to translate unique sensory preferences into inclusive fashion products?

