

CREATIVE FUTURES

Meet the Designers
- Becky Gooby, Textile Design
Graduate

**DESIGN
MUSEUM**

Creative Futures is supported by:



JOHN LYON'S CHARITY
PART OF THE HARROW SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Meet the Designer

- Becky Gooby, Textile Design Graduate

Becky Gooby is a textile designer, who graduated from the MA in Textile Design at London Metropolitan University in 2008. She creates repeat patterns from a wide range of inspirational starting points, which she also uses to upholster furniture.

Which design disciplines do you work in and why?

Textile Design and Upholstery. Why? My background is in Fine Art so the translation of ideas into printed textile design seems pretty natural to me. I like the problem solving and thinking about how an image can repeat, how the fabric will drape. I combine textile design with upholstery because I think as a textile designer you can get stuck in the middle having to rely on someone else to make your product functional. So this way I can take more control of the end product for my designs.

Can you pinpoint what first inspired you to become a designer?

Seeing great designers such as Timorous Beasties, Nicolette Brunklaus & Deborah Bowness and having always been interested in pattern, shape and colour I suppose getting to my mid twenties, realising that I didn't have the drive to continue making soft sculptural installation (fine art) pieces yet wanted to create.

Which part of your education has been most crucial to your progress as a designer, and why?

My Masters Degree. I didn't study textile design at BA (I did a degree in Fine Art) so it was only at post-graduate level that I got to learn about designing. In some ways I think this has made me more creative as a designer because I haven't been told what the limitations are.

If you could visit yourself aged 16, what advice would you give yourself about your future as a designer?

Stop being so miserable! Oh and take a bit more notice of computer aided design, it will actually be useful to you so don't be so snobby and think that drawing can only be done on paper.

Describe a typical day at work.

I generally spend the day researching. I take photographs of everything that interests me whether it's for colour inspiration, scouting out competitors & what's in the shops, or delving through an archive at a museum. I cycle everywhere so often find myself screeching to a halt to grab my camera. I use various libraries quite a lot including the National Art Library, Wellcome Collection or The Cass library to read Textile View or Selvedge, so probably find myself at one of these in the afternoon where I'll scribble down notes and ideas. It's only in the evening that I make a start on designing whether sketching out ideas in ink or in Photoshop mainly because I work best at night.

What are the big issues affecting your industry at the moment?

The recession! Not fun. But then that's affecting everyone. I would say that it's quite an exciting time for textile design. Digital technology is changing the way textiles are produced and printed. It's still expensive and there's still a long way to go with functionality but the way it opens up such a fantastic range of colours and layouts is amazing. Smart textiles are also pretty big and will change our lives through so much more than just how we wear our clothes and decorate our homes. I think sustainability, traceability and the environment are becoming ever more important to designers and manufacturers alike too.

Where do you hope to be in 5 years time?

I hope to be selling my designs both as product and as flat lengths, being featured in Selvedge and Mix trends, maybe getting more involved with residencies at museums such as the Geffrye Museum (I would love to have a rummage in their archive!).

What are the key attributes needed for a successful design career?

Motivation is so important. The only person who is going to get you to where you want to be is you. Make sure you actually listen to clients, properly read and understand briefs and know your target audience. Get involved with lots of things, my lucky breaks so far have come through helping out other designers which has got my work publicised.

Creative Futures is supported by:



JOHN LYON'S CHARITY
PART OF THE HARROW SCHOOL FOUNDATION