

Formative feedback

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| Student name | Alexander Papanikolaou | Student number | 520104 |
| Course/Unit | Tex 1: A Textiles Vocab | Assignment number | 4 |
| Type of tutorial | Written | | |

Overall Comments

Alexander, as with assignment 3 I am pleased to see the increasing element of play in your work. You have reflected on this and acknowledged that the surprises were the most notable element in your learning. I feel that you are getting to understand the creative process more (it is the things which we do not understand and do not have control of that reveal the most).

I commented last time on quantity and this remains one of the areas to work on. It is not for the sake of making more but rather to explore how an idea develops. Assessment is heavily based on idea development demonstrated through the way in which an idea is expanded. Thinking about how each sample can be varied and enlarged as a starting point for this. Contrasting materials also increase those surprises discussed above.

Feedback on assignment

Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Quality of Outcome, Demonstration of Creativity

4.1

Yarns inspired by stitch and marks

I really like the simplicity of the connection between drawings and yarn. The yarn layouts work as a counterpart to the drawings and both are enhanced as a result. Consider this as drawing with yarn but also as a way that you could potentially display or mount work - with the drawing next to the textile response.

The backgrounds of paving and grass are distracting and you could consider alternatives (the texture of the paving actually works quite well but the gaps between the stones then become part of the image and therefore the composition / artwork). Perhaps if the work was kept within those lines it would work - the learning point is that the whole image becomes part of the work and not just the yarn.

The yarns themselves are good explorations of the materials and you have challenged yourself and adjusted your understanding of what a yarn is. The next stage is to reevaluate how it can be used - let these new yarns suggest new applications.

4.2

I would have liked to see more experimentation here. Your colour is working better in the years than in the painted swatches (which is partly because the addition of texture and mixing of colours has more character). The brief is asking you to 'push' your use of colour (4.2 point 1) and I believe you have stopped at responding with the closest match yarns to your previous palettes. Pushing a design element is about exploring it fully through several combinations until you find something unexpected. One way of doing this would be to try and create different moods through your colour combinations - this will ensure that you develop significant differences. Contrasting textures will also play a part in this.

4.3

This is where it gets exciting because you can start to 'build' with your yarns. In this case you are limited with the variety of yarns produced in the former exercises however I like the way in which you re-evaluate the process of knit which you know so well. There is a sculptural quality to the pieces you have created and I would like to see you consider the backgrounds in the photos before assessment. Process photos are useful on the blog but if you want to photograph the outcome you need to consider background and lighting. This does not need any special equipment - a phone camera and natural light are fine if you just consider that your construction needs to be the focus.

This exercise would be a lot stronger if you had brought in your findings from earlier yarn experiments and looked for ways that they can be constructed to become a surface. Note again that contrast (either within a sample or between samples) will make the strongest collection.

You are currently lacking that exploration of materiality and colour and choosing to focus more on structure and form. To build a fuller body of work you need to emphasise on all four of these elements.

4.4

Re-used materials are well sourced here and there are some lovely subtle colour combinations. The combination of soft and hard and natural and unnatural material helps to bring the yarns to life. It would be really interesting to see you make multiples of these yarns and zombie them to make a surface - this could be woven, knitted or stitched but you could start simply by laying the yarns together and photographing them to see how they build up as a surface.

4.5

The notion of magnifying which you talk about is very helpful - you have made the yarn the focus rather than the cloth that it normally disappears into. The first response here to the black and white collage is the most interesting to me - the yarns in this case become

something alive which has form. There is a lot of potential for development here and I am pleased to see that you have questioned your definition of yarn.

Yarn collection:

The most notable factor about the presentation of the collection on the card is that the yarns begin to become something more than a straight line yarn. In the folder they mix together and show the potential to become the constructions and combinations which I was looking for in 4.3. Have another look at these photos and notice that there are new samples here - new 3d textile surfaces - created via the layering of your different yarns.

Sketchbooks

Demonstration of technical and Visual Skills, Demonstration of Creativity

Separate sketchbook not present but drawing integrated in to yarn work

Research

Context, reflective thinking, critical thinking, analysis

You have begun to describe particular yarns and materials and it would be healthy to keep this list building as a reference for materials which you can use in future projects.

Learning Logs or Blogs/Critical essays

Context, reflective thinking, critical thinking, analysis

As I said in my email to you (and I appreciate you have made some adjustments): I would recommend that you need some more notation against each image which explains inspiration, what you learnt and how you can imagine the sample developing. You don't need multiple images of the same sample and, in short, I am recommending less images and an increase in written analysis. This will also help you to move forward i.e. for each sample you will be considering how it could develop / combine with another and therefore you can carry out tat experiment.

I look forward to seeing part 5!

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| Tutor name | Neil Musson |
| Date | 22/9/20 |
| Next assignment due | TBC |