

Marking Into Fashion


with Evie Thomas

Evie Thomas is a textile designer and visual communicator who graduated from Norwich's BA (Hons) Textile Design in 2022. Evie has since collaborated with TU clothing on her own collection of designs. This workshop will allow you to explore a variety of mark-making techniques to generate your very own collection of designs.

Objective

This multi-disciplinary workshop will work through a creative brief from start to finish and visualise your design ideas in a fashion context. Making use of everyday materials you will create your collection of designs using techniques such as hand-drawing, mark-making, composition and collage.

YouTube workshop link

 [Youtube workshop video](#)

Workshop duration

This activity should take approximately 1-1.5 hours to complete. Please adapt to your circumstances.

What materials do I need?

- Highlighters, markers or Sharpies in a variety of colours
- Scissors
- A ruler
- 2 sheets of A4 paper
- Magazines (for reference images)
- Access to a search engine such as Google Images (for reference images)

Optional tools (for collage)

- Adobe Capture
- Canva
- Pinterest
- Word
- Viewfinder cut-outs (*supplied*)



Task one: warmup

Find 5 images of natural patterns.

You can use physical reference images from magazines or a search engine such as Google Images. This could be leaves, animal fur or feathers, rock formations. Look for interesting shapes, textures, patterns or colours.

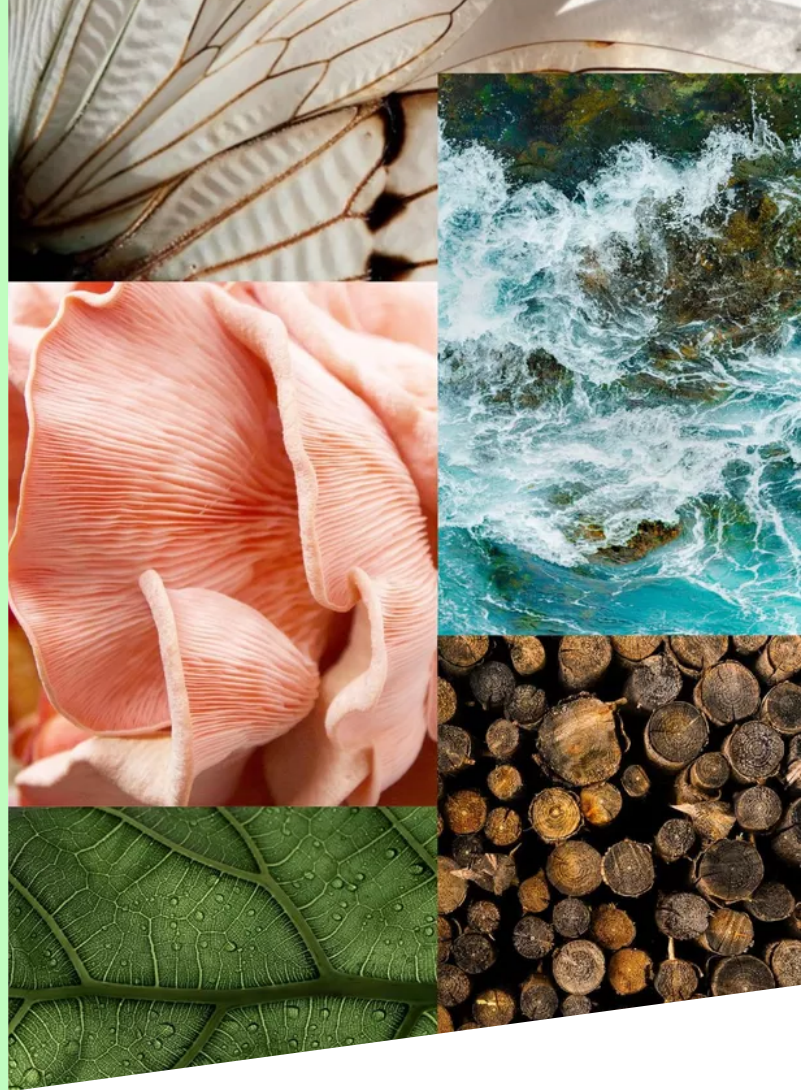
Once you have found 5 images create a collage you can refer to throughout the workshop.

For this you can use Adobe Capture, Canva, Pinterest, Word or similar to create collage of patterns and textures.

You can also do this by hand on a sheet of paper if using magazines or printed pictures.

Catch up on the recording:

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Task two: create a colour palette

Look at your selection of markers and highlighters.

For a well-balanced colour palette you will need a light, mid and dark tone as well as a bright and neutral tone.

Catch up on the recording:

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TOP TIP: This can be tricky if you are working with highlighters. Try to find one of each and arrange your markers or highlighters in order: dark-bright-mid-light-neutral.



Task three: nine designs

Take a sheet of paper and divide it into 9 sections.

Using your ruler draw 9 rectangles 8cm x 5cm. In the top 3 rectangles draw a stripe, a spot and ditsy pattern.

Use the remaining 6 rectangles to create a collection of designs based around the stripe, spot and ditsy pattern. Play with scale, spacing and layering to create these.

Catch up on the recording:

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TOP TIP: Go back to your mood board for inspiration. Consider shape, pattern, texture and colour.

Task four: composition

Photograph the designs you have created as one sheet for future use.

Using your scissors, cut out your 9 rectangles carefully. You will now use these to create a unique composition.

Decide if you want to Cut, Rip or Keep your designs.

Once you have your shapes move and layer them to create a composition. Don't stick them down, play around with spacing to create multiple compositions.

Catch up on the recording:

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TOP TIP: Draw different types of line to create different shapes. You may also want to keep some designs whole to use as a background.



Task five: cut out viewfinder

Take the viewfinders provided and trace and cut out the outline of the garment.

This could be a top, a pair of trousers or a dress. You can also cut out your own viewfinder from a magazine.

Take the viewfinders provided and start to turn your compositions into different outfit designs.

Once you have your silhouette, layer your designs in the empty space and watch them come to life as an item of clothing.

Photograph your designs as you go.

Catch up on the recording:

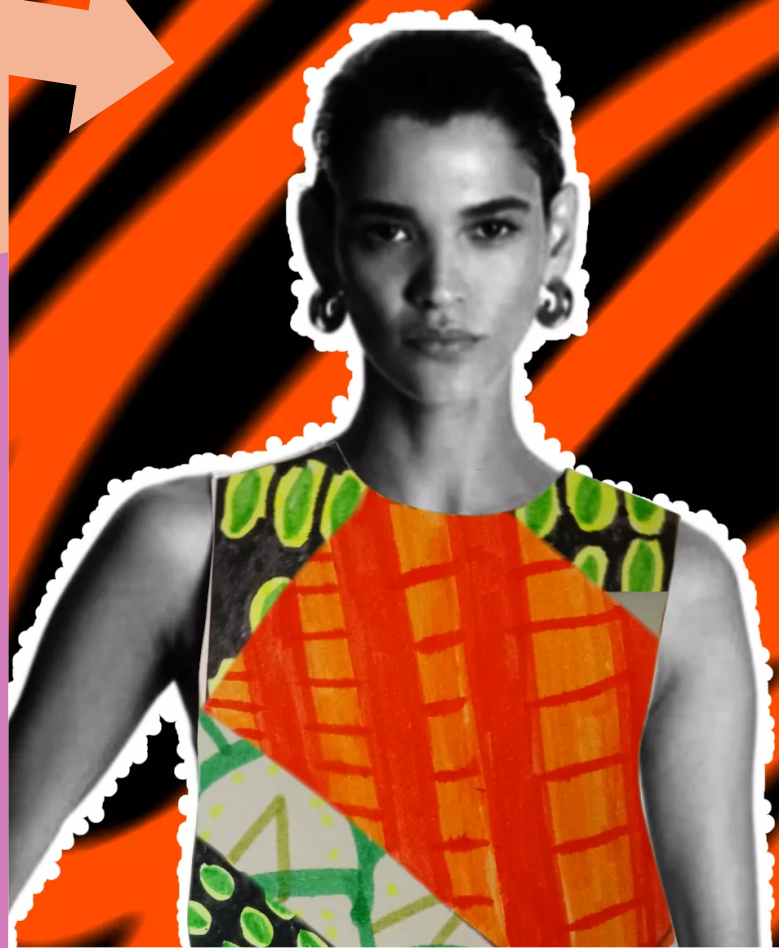
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Optional extension activity: design your own background

Once you have designed your items of clothing, return to your colour palette from Task 2 to create a background in your viewfinder.

You can also hand-draw accessories on your models to complete your look.



Next steps:

Look at the pieces you've created today.

What do they say about your personal style?

How does your colour palette reflect this?

If you were to revisit your reference images what else would you create?



Conclusion:

Mark-making is a useful technique to design patterns you can use in a fashion, interior design or a wider creative context.

Taking inspiration from different themes and sources can help you build a strong portfolio of creative work and may lead to you designing your own range of clothing or items.



Find out more about Evie Thomas

 [@e.everywhere_](https://www.instagram.com/e.everywhere_)

We would love to see your work! Share it with us on Instagram:


 [@norwichuni_outreach](https://www.instagram.com/norwichuni_outreach)


 [@takeyourplace_he](https://www.instagram.com/takeyourplace_he)


Take a look at our Padlet board from the live session to see how others responded to the workshop!

 [View our Padlet board here](#)

Further resources

 [@colour_hive](https://www.instagram.com/colour_hive) - a brilliant trend forecasting company to check out when coming up with new design ideas.

 [@thepatternsocial](https://www.instagram.com/thepatternsocial) - a lecturer with great resources for simple pattern ideas and how-to guides to hone your repeat pattern skills.

 [@newdesigners](https://www.instagram.com/newdesigners) - this is an exhibition for new graduates and a great place to find inspiration for your own projects.

Useful links

 [@norwichuniarts](https://www.instagram.com/norwichuniarts)  [Creative Career Paths](#)

 [Take Your Place](#)  [Norwich Uni Arts](#)