



ISSUE TWO

MIMA School of Art & Design Magazine

create
the
extraordinary

MIMA
School of
Art & Design



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ACCESSIBLE | ASPIRING
 CARING | CHALLENGING
 COLLABORATIVE | COMMITTED
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 CONSCIENTIOUS | CONTEMPORARY
 CREATIVE | CULTURAL
 CUTTING-EDGE | DIVERSE
EMPOWERING
 ENCOURAGING | ENGAGING | ENJOYABLE
 EXCITING | FACILITATIVE
 FRIENDLY | FUN | HELPFUL
 INCLUSIVE | INFORMATIVE
 INNOVATIVE | INSPIRING
 INTERNATIONAL | MODERN
MOTIVATING
 MULTI-DISCIPLINARY | NETWORKED
 ORGANISED | PASSIONATE | PIONEERING
 PRODUCTIVE | PROGRESSIVE
 RESOURCEFUL | RIGOROUS | SKILLFUL
 STIMULATING | SUPPORTIVE
 VISIONARY | WELCOMING

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Dear future artists and designers

Welcome to the second issue of MIMA School of Art & Design Magazine. Its been a pleasure to put together. I hope you enjoy it. I'm going to make you a promise (you have my word). If you keep reading this magazine it may just change your life.

So let's cut to the chase. What's so great about university? Why study a creative course? They're good questions and I could answer them by boring you with facts and figures about how much money the cultural industry generates for the UK economy (estimated to be over £115.9bn gross value added*). Instead, I'll let the enthusiasm of our students and graduates provide the answers.

I recently interviewed art therapist Girija Kaimal and would like to share her wise words.

'The arts are fundamental to who we are. They are not an extra. They enable us to imagine and create, and this is fundamental to survival. If you can't imagine, you can't thrive and creativity is the ability to predict different outcomes and practice our future. Being creative is about imagining possibilities we may have never previously considered.'

You heard her. Study at MIMA School of Art & Design, imagine and make the future. Change your life and change the world.

* Source: Creative Industries Federation



ENJOY THE MAGAZINE.

George Vasey
Editor



ON THE COVER
Hannah Stothard
BA (Hons) Fine Art



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ABOUT

MIMA SCHOOL OF ART & DESIGN



Part of Teesside University, MIMA School of Art & Design is uniquely placed to support you as artists and designers, whatever stage you are in your career.

You learn from prominent, practicing international artists, curators and designers. You can see their work on the cover of *ELLE Decoration*, on show at Tate Gallery, London and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. We ensure you're nurtured and supported to hone your creative voice. Whether starting out or refuelling mid-career, every perspective is valued. The experiences of our diverse staff and student body generate an inclusive, collaborative and creative community.



'IN THIS TIME OF CHANGE, ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS ARE NEEDED TO RESHAPE OUR WORLD BY ADDRESSING CRITICAL ISSUES OF OUR TIME, FROM CLIMATE CHANGE TO SOCIAL INEQUALITY, HOUSING AND GREEN SPACES, SUSTAINABLE FASHION AND PRODUCT DESIGN, ART AND WELLBEING. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE WILL LOOK LIKE, BUT WE KNOW THAT IT WILL BE SHAPED BY OUR STUDENTS.'



At the heart of the community is our gallery, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (MIMA), which is a cultural hub and creative resource. From climate change to social inequality, healthcare to housing – artists, fashion, interiors, graphics and product designers apply their skills to address critical issues of our time.

By working with professionals in the field, we prepare you to stand out and make a difference in the working world. Teesside University has been engaged in creative education for over 50 years, focusing on the connection between art and industry. State-of-the-art technology, workshops and labs enable your ideas to become a reality.

Our alumni are audacious, experimental and independent. Whatever your starting position, you are welcome to be part of art and design's contribution to our changing world and for you to create the extraordinary.

Laura Sillars

Dean of MIMA School of Art & Design and Director of Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art

ABOUT

MIMA GALLERY

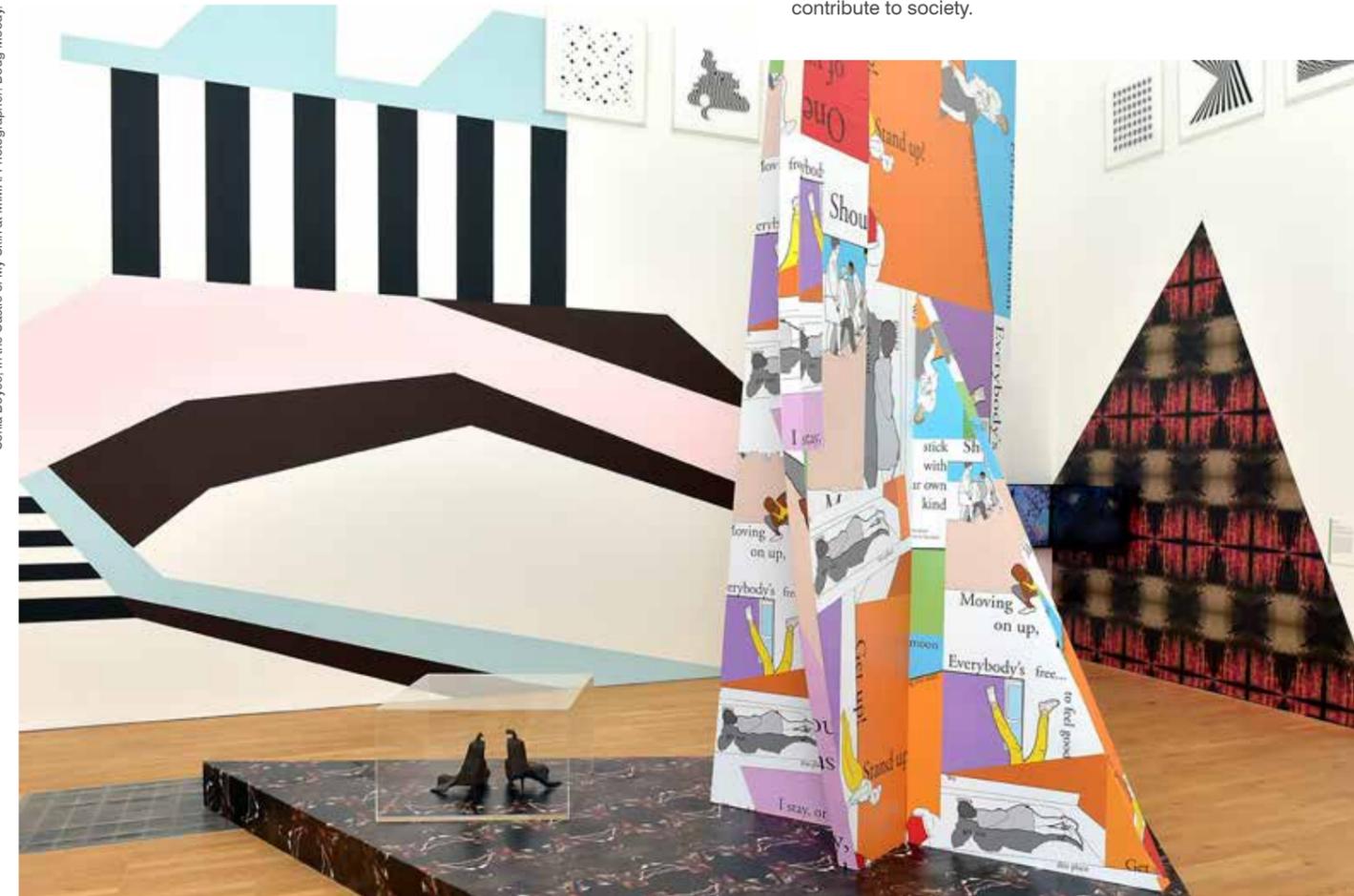


MIMA (Middlesbrough Institute of Modern art)

MIMA is an international art gallery and museum, connecting art, people and ideas. We commission, collect and re-think modern and contemporary art to make a creative and public space.

We work closely with local and global partners to put art into action and build engagement with the public. MIMA is a cultural and community hub that places equality, diversity and inclusion at the heart of our work. MIMA is powered by a vision to positively contribute to society.

Sonia Boyce, in the Castle of My Skin at MIMA. Photographer: Doug Moody.



FEATURE

What place does product design have in our lives?

LAUREN HESLOP
BA (HONS) JOURNALISM

Look around. What do you see? Every product has been imagined and created by product designers.

Product design refers to the entire process of bringing a product to market; from the initial idea to designing, manufacturing, testing and researching. It covers many large and small, physical and virtual products. The key to good product design is a marriage between functionality and form to appeal to real people with real problems that need solving.

We can see a great example of how product design impacts everyday life by looking at our phones. According to the Uswitch comparison site, mobile

phones go back to 1908, when a US patent for a wireless telephone was issued. They have evolved to become the smart phones we recognise today. All improvements were developed by product designers who saw problems and solved them, such as emojis which were introduced to make up for a lack of face-to-face interaction.

A product's physical appearance can be just as important as its functionality to consumers. In the Instagram era, how things look is everything. A product just isn't worth buying if it doesn't look good so designing a product's appearance is a huge part of the process. Within the fashion industry we can see this in sportswear.

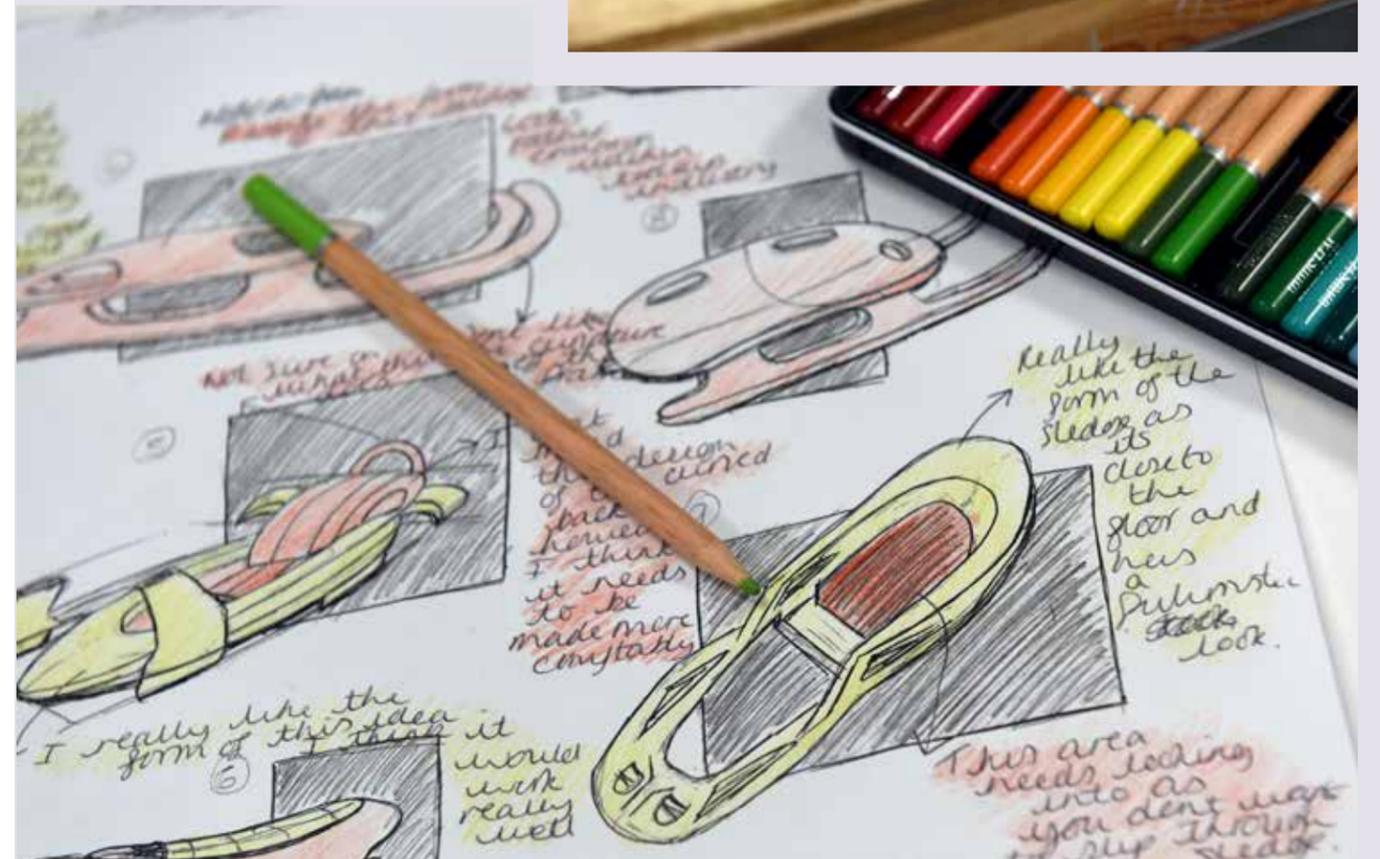
It's designed so that we can exercise comfortably with stretchy and absorbent material. But the style is just as important through colour, pattern and fit. Just because you use an item every day, doesn't mean it can't look good, right?

Often product design tackles important issues. We can see this with the pandemic, as demand for products such as facemasks and hand sanitiser have gone through the roof. Product designers have addressed problems and customer desires. For example, one common annoyance with facemasks is that they need to be pulled back over our noses constantly (and for fellow glasses-wearers, the problems don't stop there – the steaming up is a nightmare). And so companies have introduced new facemasks with nose grips to stop that happening. This is an excellent example of product designers seeing a problem and coming up with a solution to improve user-experience.

There are lots of career opportunities in product design. You can work on the user-experience and conduct research or work in manufacturing. Our course focuses on problem-solving skills and the originality needed to bring an imagined product into reality, providing students with knowledge and experience in the designing process. We support budding product designers in developing creative and technical abilities as they prepare for roles within the industry.



A PRODUCT'S PHYSICAL APPEARANCE CAN BE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS ITS FUNCTIONALITY TO CONSUMERS.



OUR STUDENTS SAY

Marie Alma Bunkamara
BA (Hons) Fine Art

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The best thing about studying at MIMA School of Art & Design is how I've been encouraged to learn new things. I've been introduced to so many great artists such as Nicola Singh and Harold Offeh who I really admire. Harold really appreciated my work and that gave me a lot of confidence.

My tutors have been extremely helpful. I struggle with physical pain and my mental health and they are very supportive. I feel comfortable here and never judged.

We've got woodworking, metal welding and printmaking equipment and we can use the facilities in other departments – I recently learned to sew. My ultimate aim is to become an art teacher.



ADOBE CREATIVE CAMPUS

The Adobe Creative Campus programme empowers you to achieve success in the classroom and in the modern economy.

As a Teesside University student, you benefit from access to the full suite of Adobe Creative Cloud apps and services to use across all your devices – along with full training and support – enabling you to produce, collaborate and share your work from anywhere, anytime.

By learning to use digital tools like Adobe Creative Cloud, you develop creative and digital communication skills that help you succeed at university and in your career.

At Teesside University we believe that innovation powers our steps. As Europe's first Adobe Creative Campus, we recognise the importance of building vital digital literacy capabilities across all curriculum areas and courses as part of our Future Facing Learning initiative.

Future-proof your career

The future of work is changing. Learn the digital skills required to attract the attention of employers and make a real difference in the 21st-century workplace.

Professional skills development

Develop your essential professional skills like creativity, critical thinking, creative problem-solving and collaboration.

Classroom engagement

Benefit from enhanced digital engagement across disciplines and throughout your curriculum to help you master your subject matter, stay immersed in your learning and improve your learning outcomes.



FEATURE

Recycling and upcycling fashion

LUCY PEARCE

BA (HONS) FASHION COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTION



The pandemic changed what we wear and how we shop. We have learned how important it is to take care of what we have and use more of what we already have. By recycling and upcycling we can save money, reduce landfill, help the environment and reduce the horrific conditions for overseas garment workers.

Shopping local and supporting small businesses has become a major aspect of the new way we consume. This is encouraged by big brands and is enabled by social media platforms. Brands have moved online and the high street has begun to fall apart. The pandemic has also seen many people learning new skills and selling things from home on online platforms such as Etsy and Instagram.

People have become more aware of sustainability. They are buying less and buying second-hand in vintage and charity shops and this has become a huge part of the fashion we see today. DIY has become a popular trend, with people making garments at home

to sell for an extra income. The most popular trend is bleaching and fabric painting denim jeans, giving them a new lease of life.

The pandemic has slowed production, creating limitations, and big fashion brands such as Viktor & Rolf are reusing old unsold stock and materials to create new one-off pieces. Stella McCartney is using sustainable materials such as mushrooms to replace leather. High street stores such as H&M have introduced a garment collecting scheme to reuse pieces and textiles, using up unsold or out of style stock.

Upcycled collections have been a major new trend in the last few years and this will continue. New faces in the fashion industry are focusing their brand on upcycling and repurposing as people are willing to pay more for a more sustainable garment and longer-lasting wardrobe statement.

Upcycled pieces are unique and individual. We can see old clothes being turned into accessories on platforms such as Depop and Vinted and many of the makers and sellers are students who want an extra income. Some have even made a full business out of this.

Local organisations such as the Festival of Thrift have been motivational in educating the public in sustainability. Likewise, Teesside University recently had their final year project on denim upcycling and students Harry Tribe and Tan Huey En Joyce display their garments at the festival this year.

Harry created an oversized denim jacket inspired by the coast, highlighting the contrast between beauty and danger, using blue and black respectively to show this. When I asked Harry about upcycling, he said it is a cheap way

to update a wardrobe and lessen the environmental impact as denim is one of the biggest causes of pollution.

Joyce added that upcycling is also about creativity and imagination. Her work is also inspired by the coast and she created an entire look from old jeans, fabrics and sandals inspired by North Yorkshire fishing villages. She made prints inspired by fishing boats, bubbles on water, and the fishermen's catch. The clothes incorporated puffed jeans, bleaching and fraying, embroidery and patchwork.

By having brands sell unique pieces, or having small brands making to order, no two orders are the same. Upcycling will continue to rise for a long time especially when major influencers such as the fashion trend forecasting business WGSN and Vogue are reporting on it and illustrating the benefits of the change.



THE PANDEMIC HAS SLOWED PRODUCTION, CREATING LIMITATIONS, AND BIG FASHION BRANDS SUCH AS VIKTOR & ROLF ARE REUSING OLD UNSOLD STOCK AND MATERIALS TO CREATE NEW ONE-OFF PIECES.





INTERVIEW

Stella Hall
Festival of Thrift
Creative Director

As Creative Director for the Festival of Thrift CIC, I'm responsible for choosing the artistic programme. I do a lot of research and go to lots of events and talk to artists to find the right people to be involved. I also find ways to fund and support the festival so we can keep it free. I grew up the oldest of nine children so being thrifty has always been second nature to me. This is reflected in the sustainability focus of the festival.

We're based in Redcar and we shout about where we're from. It's important to show that a small seaside town like Redcar can create a national festival.

Everybody who comes to the festival has a different experience. This year you can bring a picnic and sit and watch music, get involved in workshops ranging from blacksmithing and campfire cooking to foraging and screen printing, or see an acrobatic performance about rising sea levels. There are hundreds of stalls

with ethical traders where you can buy lunch, tea, a vintage outfit or take home a recycled table.

You can follow our choir around the

site singing songs about the sea, discover the lost contents of the ocean in an exhibition, debate vegan versus meat or the cost of fast fashion, or get on stage in our upcycled fashion show.

Every year is different. Our 2019 theme was clean air. We commissioned artists to create work on the theme of clean air including an artwork using ink made from exhaust fumes, a structure on Redcar seafront where people could sit and contemplate the beauty of nature and a lung cleaning pod which drew on the importance of nature in our green recovery.

Getting to my current role has been an interesting journey. I studied English and drama and then TV directing. My first job was in community development. It was an exciting time and I got involved in Rock against Racism and CND street performances and realised I could combine my political interests with creativity. I worked with other artists and performers to put shows on in pubs before going on to promote in

venues across Manchester. We organised everything from outdoor art installations to South African music ensembles and then in 1983 we opened our own arts centre, The Green Room. I developed my business skills by doing an arts administration course and doing a range of placements. I'm inspired by all kinds of art and this is what led me to co-founding the Festival of Thrift in 2012.

There's a huge energy coming out of the visual arts sector in the area, evident in the work of organisations like Auxiliary, Pineapple Black and Base Camp, which complement MIMA's pioneering community approach. We're also fortunate to have hundreds of great artists based in the region. We work closely with Tees Valley Arts and share its creative approach and Teesside University has been a valuable partner of the festival working with students and staff to showcase art, fashion and design as well as work coming out of engineering, social sciences and the Business School.

We've grown a lot as an organisation and I'm hoping to step down at the end of 2022 to hand over a flourishing year-round programme, culminating in an extraordinary festival recognised as the place to be for those who care about our creative and sustainable future together.

My advice, if you're interested in working in the creative sector, is to try a part-time role at a venue as an usher or gallery guide so you can see what's going on from the sidelines. There is value in internships, apprenticeships and volunteering. Try a bit of everything to see what you like the most. I thought that I wanted to be a performer but discovered that I'm much happier behind the scenes.



THE UPSIDE DOWN



2021 Degree Show

MIMA School of Art & Design

Join our launch event 8 July, 5.30pm – 7.00pm



To book a place please scan this QR code

Or visit mimadegreeshow.tees.ac.uk after the launch event

OUR STUDENTS SAY

Keavey Gamwell

BA (Hons) Graphic Design with Marketing

“

I'd seen many successful graduates from the course – it was the place to be. I'm doing a lot of graphic design work including video and illustration as well as album and clothing design. It's a real mix but the balance of design and academic work is perfect.

The studios are great for collaboration yet we have enough space to branch out on our own. We are encouraged to experiment and respond to industry style briefs. My standout memory was making a collaborative film that received positive feedback from industry professionals.

I love Middlesbrough. We're so close to the beach, countryside and other cities – all are an endless source of inspiration. Middlesbrough is really growing at the moment with interesting businesses and shops. It's exciting to see the place thrive.



FEATURE

Designing a masterplan for the old Vaux Brewery

Architecture and design students from MIMA School of Art & Design have worked on a series of collaborative proposals for Sunderland Challenge, an ambitious competition to design a masterplan for the old Vaux Brewery in the centre of Sunderland. Encompassing 100 affordable, adaptable and sustainable houses and a design space, the scheme aims to be carbon neutral and enhance health and wellbeing with plenty of green and open space for residents.

Students developed and costed plans, focusing on sustainable materials such as timber and modern manufacturing using local skills and materials to build futureproof homes. Each member of the winning team will receive £250 with cash prizes for second, third and fourth place. The project culminates in a public exhibition with all entries on display. In previous years, students have tackled a range of demanding briefs, including working with nursing staff from Sunderland Eye Infirmary to redesign the A&E and outpatient areas.

This thrilling opportunity has given real industry insight to the students and involved industry leading organisations – Sunderland City Council, Riverside Development Team, Ministry of Building Innovation and Education (MOBIE), Confederation of Timber Industries, British Woodworking Federation, and the University Engagement Programme scheme sponsors Timber Trade Federation.



The internationally-renowned Sunderland-born architect, TV presenter and founder of MOBIE, George Clarke joined one of the teaching sessions and was enthralled by the students' energy and commitment. Their interpretation of the challenging brief showcases the incredible work coming out of MIMA School of Art & Design. 'I can't wait to see their final designs and I wish them

the very best for the competition. This is a really exciting opportunity to rethink how housing and communities are designed and a chance for students to get involved in a live project that will be truly pioneering. We want the riverside in Sunderland to be a world-class place to live, so we want students to really push the boundaries and inspire us.'

'It has been a fabulous project to be involved in and a very ambitious brief. The students' designs have referenced elements of Sunderland history, heritage and culture and connected the site to the city centre and the river, producing proposals for a vibrant development with a sense of identity and community, blending the best of both city and village living.'

Richard Sober

Associate Professor



'Students have extended their awareness of design during their involvement in this competition brief. It has given them significant exposure to industry professionals and encouraged them to think about the design of new communities, sustainability, place making, the preservation of resources and biodiversity. In such a brief space of time, student awareness of the big picture relating to modern methods of home construction has increased hugely; skills and knowledge that are hard to bring to life when working only within an academic university setting.'

Leanda French Course Leader



OUR STUDENTS SAY

Daniel Willimott
BA (Hons) Interior Design



“

Middlesbrough is a great place to study with something for everyone. It's super close to local beauty spots as well as cities such as Newcastle and York if you fancy a daytrip.

My first day on campus was so exciting. It's hard work and that shouldn't be underestimated, but don't let that put you off. It is also fun.

Everybody wants you to do really well and the support from the tutors is fantastic – they're always there for us. The peer group is very diverse, and we have loads of conversations about a wide range of things.

My dream, once I graduate, is to establish my own interior design practice, working with UK and international clients.

HEAR FROM OUR ALUMNI



Rachel Bell
BA (Hons) Interior Design

I was really struck by how friendly the University seemed. The quality of the work is so high and it inspired me to reach the same standards.

I learned so many useful skills that have all come in handy since I graduated. Computer aided design (CAD) was a really useful skill as it has been essential throughout my career. Every project I work on requires some form of CAD plan and I have been able to expand my skills based on the foundation I built at Teesside.

The tutors were all amazing in offering support – I'm still in touch with them all now. Everyone worked together, bouncing ideas around and discussing new design trends. My favourite memory was exhibiting our work in London – it was a great opportunity to showcase our work to design firms.

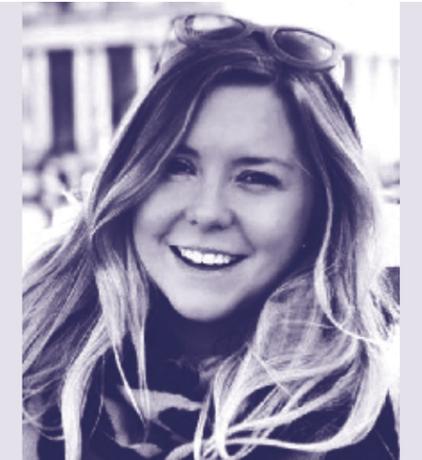
I now work for a design company in Gateshead and head up their interior design department. My day involves every aspect of design from initial client meetings to presenting schemes through to completion. I also teach at MIMA School of Art & Design so you may see me around campus now and again. My advice is to put everything into your degree and make the most of the University facilities – I didn't realise just how many resources were at hand until I left.

Harriet Armstrong
BA (Hons) Interior Design

A Summer University course at MIMA School of Art & Design ignited my love for interior design. I saw a way I could create a career from an area I really enjoyed. It was a great experience seeing my ideas come to life – I gained confidence and learnt new skills. My degree gave me the platform to step into the career I wanted and skills to build on.

The most important thing I learned at University was the fundamentals of design. Since graduating I worked at Russell Sage Studio as a senior designer, designing hotels, restaurants and bars. I'm now a senior interior designer with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office – I work with a team to design the interiors of British ambassadors' residences around the world.

My advice to people starting out is to be humble. And always go the extra mile because hard work always pays off.



TOGETHER NOW

MIMA GRADUATES EXHIBITION

MIMA School of Art & Design graduates stage major exhibition and events programme inspired by theme of creative solidarity.

For the first time ever MIMA will present the work of artists and designers who have recently graduated from MIMA School of Art & Design.

MIMA is standing by its creative community and ensuring that there are brilliant opportunities for artists and designers at that crucial early stage at the beginning of their careers and creative lives.

The creative field is one of the fastest growing industries and is likely to expand rapidly in the future. MIMA wants to support emerging talent to ensure that the pandemic and recent period of disruption does not impact on their future ambition and success.

Come and support your local talent by visiting the *Together Now* exhibition from 22 July and joining the accompanying events programme. Because of the pandemic, graduates were invited to develop a large-scale project with MIMA for 2021 in place of a traditional degree show.

Together Now is a space to explore next steps and build skills and networks. It is a professional presentation, selected and curated by the graduates and MIMA's curatorial team and exhibited in MIMA's galleries. This project is part

of our MIMA School of Art & Design ethos: we invest long-term in alumni and support their progression. Our alumni teach on our courses, mentor students and contribute to shaping our gallery and School.

The exhibition is part of the museum's internationally-recognised programme and will be seen alongside *In the Castle of My Skin*, an exhibition by Sonia Boyce, one of the UK's leading artists. 28 graduates are involved, with alumni from undergraduate and postgraduate courses in interior design, fashion and fine art. The exhibition includes works drawn from the Middlesbrough Collection – by artists and makers who have inspired the graduates.

The graduates began by working with themes of collaboration and creative solidarity inspired by their experiences of the pandemic. Looking at the concept of light at the end of a long dark tunnel, they focused on the warmth of being around other creative practitioners and influential figures, talking and showcasing work.

MIMA is committed to stimulate and grow the creative ecology of the Tees Valley and the North more broadly. As a cultural leader we have developed significant projects to help businesses bounce back such as Creative Fuse and also through working with the Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership.

Students come from all over the world and from the local area and while many go on to work around the world in companies such as Twitter, BBC or Aston Martin, some seek to build their working lives here in the North, building creative businesses and contributing to the artistic ecology.

Laura Sillars, Director of MIMA and Dean of MIMA School of Art & Design, said:

'Our students and graduates continue to inspire us by their optimism, resilience, energy and imagination. This programme has been designed to support our talented graduates to build important skills during a challenging time. They have worked alongside other early career creatives, artists and professionals, including our own curatorial team at MIMA, to connect with MIMA's many creative networks, and to take vital next steps in their careers.'

Gemma Tierney, MIMA School of Art & Design graduate and the project's Creative Co-ordinator, said: 'It is vital that we support graduates, especially in the first year after graduation as this is a valuable time to build networks and sustain creative practices independently. After the past year, with the impacts of the pandemic, it is exciting to be working on a project that focuses on how we can come together and forge connections.'

Launching Thursday 22 July, 5.00pm – 8.00pm, at MIMA.
Seemima.art and follow on @mimauseful for details.



Beth Dear



KA Bird



Matthew Ward



Charley Duffy



CREATIVE BOOST

Thinking about studying art and design subjects? Get to know us over the summer through:



Creative Challenge

Throughout July and August.

A new online MIMA summer programme to sharpen your skills and get you thinking creatively about the world about you. Try your hand at a range of tasks and briefs set online and led by our team of curators and guests from across across MIMA School of Art & Design including Lauren Ridley (interior design), Amy Dover (illustration) and Abi Dennison (fashion).

Suitable for everyone who might want to study at MIMA School of Art & Design including Year 12, school leavers and mature students.

Find out more v.allport@tees.ac.uk

MIMA School of Art & Design tours

Meet with a MIMA School of Art & Design Champion. Our friendly faces are current students or recent graduates who are here to introduce you to the MIMA School of Art & Design world.

- > Look around our buildings and talk about life studying here.
- > Schedule a one-to-one chat online to address any of your questions about the MIMA School of Art & Design experience.

Suitable for everyone who might want to study at MIMA School of Art & Design including students in Year 12, school leavers and mature students. Find out more v.allport@tees.ac.uk



FASHION



Vicky Graham
Senior Technician

The textiles print facilities are unique and accessible to all students across the School, offering open access booking and specialist modules taught in the print facility. The facilities are in a beautiful grade II listed building with a variety of print equipment that is as impressive as the location.

The academic staff have an extensive range of skills and experience in art and design and vast teaching experience. Many of the staff work in the sector, running their own businesses. They are regularly featured in international exhibitions and are published in magazines and books. The staff have up-to-date industry knowledge, and you can expect these experiences to shine through in their teaching. It's such a positive and supportive environment and the campus amplifies the sense of community.

SERVICES



Scan this QR code for more information



FINE ART



Lesley Hicks
Co-Course Leader

The course is unique because of our unrivalled access to MIMA, which is the creative heart of the School. It inspires collaboration and connection that builds your networks.

Each year is distinct as you start to deepen your understanding and work towards a degree show where you show your artwork publicly alongside your peers.

You learn in studio spaces and workshops where you explore a range of processes such as screen printing, welding and mould making and work with 3D print, plaster, metal and wood. There are computer labs with all the latest software. We have cameras, projectors and technical staff that help you realise anything you can imagine. We also have bookable spaces for performances and installation as well as direct access to MIMA's resources and staff.

We have visiting speakers that help you explore a range of critical ideas. Our staff are very active internationally and have broad expertise.

You gain the artistic flair and professional skills to develop a career. Our graduates have become artists, curators, teachers, art therapists – working in museums and galleries as well as creative businesses. Some have gone down a more academic route and undertaken PhDs. Many have shaped the cultural community in Middlesbrough, establishing galleries such as Pineapple Black and Platform A.



GRAPHICS



Michael O'Malley
Course Leader

Creative thinking and experimentation are fundamental to our approach. Tutors continue their own professional practice and you often have opportunities to work with staff on projects.

You have access to a full range of facilities including digital and textiles studios. We've got amazing digital cameras, large scale printers, laser cutters and A3 scanners. You can loan Macbooks with all the latest industry software.

We've had students become children's book illustrators and work in motion graphics for companies such as Penguin books, Twitter, Kairos Media, and Barker Advertising. Many of our students work in design studios and agencies. Others are self-employed.

There's a strong emphasis on idea generation and design thinking, alongside visual skills, craft and communication strategy. This process has underpinned a history of prestigious award-winning student work, including International Society of Typographic Designers, Design & Art Direction, You Can Now awards and Creative Conscience awards.



INTERIORS



Leanda French
Course Leader

We are the only National Centre of Excellence in the North accredited by the Society of British and International Designers.

Our interiors courses are a perfect base to build on, teaching you skills in technical drawing and computer-aided design. There are no examinations, only course work. As you move through each year, the projects progress from designing homes to thinking about design for other situations. We explore spaces such as hotels, restaurants, hospitals and retail environments.

You have access to industry-standard printing facilities to make bespoke designs. Our specialist staff have lots of experience and our part-time lecturers bring vast industry knowledge to the courses. They often offer work experiences which makes us industry connected.

Many of our students have set up businesses, designing everything from bars to cafes and hotels. Some work in the construction industry and others work for the government designing residences for ambassadors around the world.

The best thing about studying here is that you have many possibilities on your doorstep. There are facilities in the University for extra-curricular activities such as sports and societies. Galleries, theatres and annual events such as the Middlesbrough Mela will satisfy your cultural life.



PRODUCT



Mark Freary
Programme Leader

The course is one of the longest running in the country and our graduates work across the design industry at all levels. You can expect small class sizes and great access to staff, making you feel like part of the Teesside family.

The course is very hands-on, focusing on traditional and digital skills in drawing, modelling and experimentation. Traditional methods and craft skills remain a cornerstone of the product design industry even today. A core of contextual studies ensures that you are engaged with real-world design contexts and that you can problem-solve and find commercial contexts for your work.

Our graduates work as creative officers, concept artists, designers and directors at Aston Martin Lagonda Group Limited, Philips, JCB, Dyson, Jaguar and Seymourpowell. Some work for film and TV as concept artists for *Batman*, *Doctor Who*, *Blade Runner*, and *Star Wars*.

The environment on the course replicates a real-world consultancy. You learn in an open plan environment, with open access to our workshops and facilities. You undertake work experience in the summer, and in recent years students have worked with major companies.

We use industry-standard equipment with up-to-date software and the latest technology. Academic staff have an enormous amount of industrial skills such as drawing and digital visualisation for strategic design applications.



OUR STUDENTS SAY

Alan Milburn
BA (Hons) Product Design

“

I have a background in mechanical engineering and really loved the hands-on approach here. I was interested in how things looked as much as how they functioned and I felt it was time to pursue a career in something I enjoy. I'm very proud of Middlesbrough's industrial past and felt that it was a good context to work in. You can find steel from here in the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Wembley Stadium.

I have amazing access to talented, knowledgeable and inspirational people. When I came onto the course I'd been away from education for a while. I was nervous but I've thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on learning.

I remember building full-scale Go Kart rigs and getting the public to try them out. It was a real challenge, but great fun. I've learned so much in my time here, but the major lesson I've learned is that when I fail, I need to keep trying, and be patient.

I want to use my degree to make a positive impact on the world. I would love to go into a shop and see one of my products.



LIKE WHAT YOU'VE READ?

Come and visit us at an open day. We'll get you on the path to starting your creative journey.

tees.ac.uk/opendays



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**‘WHAT IS ART? A
NEED TO REPLY.’**

Martin Margiela
fashion designer

“

**‘WHAT IS ON THIS PLANET
THAT NEEDS DOING THAT I
KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT,
THAT PROBABLY WON’T
HAPPEN UNLESS I TAKE
RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT?’**

Buckminster Fuller
architect and designer

“

**‘ART IS DOING.
ART DEALS
DIRECTLY WITH LIFE.’**

Ruth Asawa
artist