

A woman with white face paint and blue eye makeup is smiling and holding a white cup with a red stripe. She is wearing a plaid shirt over a black top. The scene is filled with gold tinsel and streamers, creating a festive atmosphere.

THE STITCHERY COLLECTIVE

CURRICULUM VITAE
APRIL 2019



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Curriculum Vitae 2019

The Stitchery Collective is a Brisbane based design collective.

While situated in the field of fashion, our collaborative practice functions outside the traditional modes of fashion design, production and display, arguing for inclusivity and accessibility, with a participatory focus. We regularly work within the context of the art gallery or museum, creating interactive installations, facilitating fashion and craft focused public programming, and hosting community engagement events.

We are inspired by the potential of creative design practice to connect individuals and develop vibrant and inclusive communities. We share a common feeling that the culture of fashion can be simultaneously joyous, meaningful, and beautiful, and that clothing is meant to be felt and experienced, not just watched and bought. Collectively we prioritise the social and cultural aspects of fashion and as such our works actively invite community participation through such things as the sharing of stories, the creation of their own work or individualised experiences.

Individually our interests are diverse—including installation, costume making and design, fashion exhibition and curation, research, innovative fashion design, education and performance making, and our work draws upon these multiple design and creative perspectives. We are united by our commitment to a critical and ethical engagement with fashion amid broader social issues, and our creative practice is given further depth and rigour through a shared research focus, which results in collaboratively written papers, articles and conference presentations.

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PROJECTS: CURRENT

26-28 April 2019

Fashion Revolution Brisbane: Panel Hosts

Artists Alike Gallery, Albion Brisbane

This three day event including workshops, panel discussions, styling sessions, and local sustainable designer and vintage markets explores sustainability at both material and cultural levels, connecting the Brisbane sustainable fashion community. The Stitchery Collective will be hosting three panels, including “Working in Cambodia: A fast fashion hotspot”, “The Sewing Renaissance” and “Inclusivity and Diversity within The Fashion Industry”, as well performing a general event management and hosting role.

24 May 2019

Book Launch “Global Perspectives on Sustainable Fashion”

Avid Reader Bookstore, West End Brisbane

“Global Perspectives on Sustainable Fashion” (2019) showcases the global fashion industry’s efforts to reduce the negative impacts associated with fashion production and consumption. This panel discussion puts hosts The Stitchery Collective in conversation with editors Dr Alison Gwilt and Dr Alice Payne and several contributing authors around current approaches to sustainability in fashion, inviting the audience to join the discussion around what can be done by consumers in the face of the global climate crisis.

6 July 2019

Bowery Haus III

Brisbane Powerhouse, Brisbane

The third installment of our radical dress up event in collaboration with music curator Sullivan and the Brisbane Powerhouse. As the closing party for MELT Festival Queer Arts and Culture, The Bowery Haus is a costume party celebrating inclusivity, self-expression and one of Australia’s most legendary queer icons, Leigh Bowery.

PROJECTS: PAST

March 2019

Finding Fashion Forum: Talking identity, place and style in Australian fashion

Museum of Brisbane, Brisbane.

One day seminar hosted by the Museum of Brisbane as part of the public programing for the Easton Pearson exhibition (November 2018 – April 2019).

The Stitchery curated and hosted the forum in collaboration with MoB, including three panels with speakers including Rachel Burke, Gail Sorronda, Easton Pearson, Outland Denim, The Social Outfit and Akira Isagowa.



Akira Isogawa, Pamela Easton, Lydia Pearson and Glynis Traill-Nash at the Finding Fashion Forum, Museum of Brisbane, 2 March 2019.

March 2019

Slow Fashion Weekend

Museum of Brisbane, Brisbane

Weekend of events focusing on 'slow' fashion practices, including 'Speed Date a Stylist' Event, Emroidery Workshop and Sunday Stitch Lounge hosted by The Stitchery Collective in collaboration with MoB.

October 2018

Fempres\$: WISHWITCH

Liveworks, Sydney

Working in collaboration with indigenous artist Hannah Bronte, The Stitchery were commissioned to develop costumes for 8 artists performing as part of the **Fempres work**.

Workshop + Talk: Open House Brisbane

Burnett Lane, Brisbane

As part of the Brisbane City Council's Open House Festival, The Stitchery hosted a part panel/ part conversational chat looking at the local history of Burnett Lane and its role as a hub for Brisbane fashion design and manufacturing. These inclusive chats ran alongside a free label making workshop and were run over two days as part of the The Design Market Place.



September 2018

Trash Island

Commissioned by Heaps Gay for Brisbane Festival, hosted at the Tivoli, Brisbane
A tropical trash paradise installation, aimed to engage punters attending the Heaps Gay opening event for Brisfest 2018. The installation was the set for a professional fashion photoshoot, capturing the diverse and creative looks sported by attendees, with **colourful results**. For this event we worked with Photographer Savannah van der Niet.

Trash Island Installation
at the Heaps Gay Trash Palace, Sept 2018
Photographed by Savannah van der Niet.

July 2018

Stitch Your Stories / Stitch Your Future.

Commissioned by the QUT Art Museum, hosted at the museum and in local high-schools.

An [ongoing workshops series](#) exploring storytelling through clothing and design for highschool children aged 12 through to 17. Using techniques of embroidery, abstract story telling and personal affirmations, these workshops utilise craft to facilitate conversations with young people about their futures.

Part of the QUT Widening Participation Program.

May 2018

Bowery Haus

Commissioned by Brisbane Powerhouse

The second in a series of radical costume parties celebrating Australian queer icon Leigh Bowery, hosted as the closing party for MELT, The Brisbane Powerhouse's annual festival of Queer art and performance.



Documentation of Bowery Haus was presented as part of “Venerating Leigh Bowery”, an NTRO video presentation at Critical Costuming 2018 Conference, Surrey UK, in September 2018.

Further online documentation:
[Bowery Haus video by Jack Birtles](#),
photography by [Savannah van der Niet](#)
and [Deelan Do](#).

Bowery Haus: MELT 2018 Closing Party
at Brisbane Powerhouse, photographed by
Savannah van der Niet.

March - November 2017

Sunday Stitch Lounge

Hosted by SWOP Clothing Exchange, West End

A monthly pop up sewing lounge, open to the community free of charge, designed to connect with those interested in sustainable fashion, encourage a culture of mending, and assist swoppers and other visitors to extend the life-cycle of garments.

October 2017

Manifesto of Dress: a night of counter-fashion.

Presented at Brisbane Powerhouse

A performative exploration of the political capacity of counter fashion throughout history and in contemporary fashion practice. This public lecture/ performance included the work of Queensland designers Grace Lillian Lee, Phoebe Paradise, and Isabel Wengert, and utilised live dress-ups to explore moments of politicised fashion in history including Bloomers, the Zoot Suit, The Bob and The French Revolution. Documentation of the [Manifesto of Dress performance](#) is available online.

November 2016

Cumulus Design Conference (Hong Kong)

The Stitchery present their paper “Under the Skin”, which discusses contemporary fashion displays in contest to their exhibitions The Stitchery Collective Collection and From Home, With Love.

October 2016

Bowery Bowl

Presented with Backbone Youth Arts

This radical dress up party, hosted in a Bowls Club, celebrated both the extreme fashion icon Leigh Bowery and the distinct local culture of Brisbane. Bowery Bowl was the first in a series of fashion parties celebrating inclusivity, dressing up and the brilliance of the Brisbane cultural community.

Further online documentation: [Bowery Bowl video by Jack Birtles](#) and photography by [Savannah van der Niet](#).



Bowery Bowl, October 2016

Photographed by Savannah van der Niet.

November 2015

QUT Fashion Symposium

The Stitchery presented a short paper on their recent installation works.



June/July 2015

From Home, with Love

Presented with the State Library of Queensland as part of the [Distant Lines: Queensland voices of the First World War](#) exhibition [From Home, With Love](#) explored the experiences of those on the front line and at home during the war. The interactive installation combined sound works and garments to evoke domestic spaces and lived relationships. Visitors were invited to feel and wear cloth made heavy with memories, and to join the group effort in crafting for comfort.

Visitor engaging with From Home, with Love installation.
Photograph by Kate O’Sullivan.

Knit your Bit Saturdays

Presented with SLQ as part of the [Distant Lines: Queensland voices of the First World War](#) exhibition A group crafting session hosted by the stitchery at State Library of Queensland from, community participants joined us to construct and decorate our comforter installation. The communal crochet project was built over two months by visitors to [Knit Your Bit Saturdays](#), and eventually found its home suspended in the [Distant Lines](#) exhibition space.

February 2015

Women and Men in Clothes Symposium (University of Sydney)

The Stitchery presented a short reflection on their collaborative design practice for [Collective Collection](#).

December 2014

Collective Collection – Installation

The Stitchery Collection was launched via an [interactive installation](#) that focused on memory and storytelling. Held in an historic mansion the event was introspective and personal in its experience. Guided by headphones, the audience was invited to engage with the garments and reflect on their own memories of wearing clothes.

Collective Collection – Patterns

The Stitchery Collection is a collaboratively designed fashion collection. The collection embraces stitchyisms such as playfulness, nostalgia and fun digital girl culture. These clothes are not for sale – but you can enjoy the ideas, download the patterns and make them yourself! Online documentation: [Collective Collection lookbook](#) and [editorial photoshoot](#).

July 2013 – October 2014

Peppermint Sewing School

The Stitchery contributed downloadable patterns to the Peppermint Sewing School for issues 18, 19, 20, 21 and 23.

July – October 2013

Glencore Xstrata Queensland Regional Touring Workshops

Presented with QAGoMA for the Ruth Stoneley: A Stitch in Time touring exhibition.

The 2-hour workshop introduced students to creative sustainable ideas and how to incorporate these into their own tote bag design. Students learnt about screen printing techniques and could include an image of their local community into the design of one side of the bag.

September 2013

Here's looking at you kid.

Presented as part of the QAG New Wave Teens program

An embroidery workshop with teens specifically looking into the motif of the eye in art and design.

June – September 2013

Sunday Stitch-ups (It's hip to be a square)

Presented as part of the QAG Quilts exhibition public programming. In this workshop participants embroidered graphic imagery from internet memes onto scraps of fabric. In this way the workshop highlighted and experimented with one of the ways in which crafting culture is humorously re-inventing itself in the 21st century.

June 2012

Night of the Dead Trees – T-shirt Scape

Presented as part of Metro Arts Free Range Program

A tent-like interactive installation of recycled t-shirts. This t-shirt scape could be climbed through, sat on and explored.

See it, Love it, Make it.

This project commissioned emerging local fashion designers to produce an innovative design that was then developed into a workshop for high school.

July 2012

Women in Mining Design Collaboration and Schools Competition

Presented as part of the Women in Mining Inspire! Convention

Senior School design competition using a digital teaching package, run in conjunction with the production of a fashion collection using work wear materials by The Stitchery Collective to be presented at the Inspire! Convention, presented by the Queensland Resources Council.

Schools talks and Workshops

Presented as part of QUT's Widening Participation program

A series of workshops, studio tours and talks with a range of high schools, as well as delivering several workshops.

May-July 2012

Fashioning Social Inclusion – Series Two

Two nine week programs developing design and fashion skills with two different groups, The Romero Centre and NOAH – the Stafford Sudanese community.

February 2012

WARM Workshops

Presented at the 3rd International Children's Carnival, Venice ITALY

Representing Australia at the Venice Biennale's 3rd International Children's Carnival (Carnevale dei Raazzi), The Stitchery Collective delivered a workshop series and installation for children 5 -12 yrs old utilising recycled t-shirts. These were turned into scarves, beanies and ponchos and the participants were taught hand sewing and fashion construction skills. Nominated and sponsored by Arts Queensland and the Australia Council for the Arts.



Workshop participants enjoying their creations.
Photograph by The Stitchery.

Online documentation: [Biennale Channel Video](#), The Stitchery's [Venice workshop](#) and [installation](#) albums.

November 2011

Emerging Designer Exhibition

Angela Leggett, a recent QUT honours graduate, exhibits her recent collection.

Life Drawing with clothes on.

A weekly class of life drawing that ran over the summer, led by Priya Cox.

October 2011

LIMN Exhibition

Fashionable bodies are the subject of Priya Cox's fashion illustration exhibition.

Undress Brisbane

The Stitchery supported a sustainable fashion event showcasing Brisbane's emerging eco-fashion designers.

The Green Heart Fair

Ran an upcycling fashion stall at Brisbane City Council's bi-annual sustainability fair.

QUT Fashion Swap

Presented with QUT

Fashioning Social Inclusion – Series One

Presented with QUT

September 2011

Cooperative Fashion Exhibition

Paula Dunlop and Madeleine King share their approaches to design and garment-making through the Cooperative Fashion exhibition—a show that celebrates chance, improvisation and creative play.

Exquisite Waistcoats Workshop

Participants learn how collaboration, improvisation and chance can be fun ways to extend traditional approaches to garment making. Working in pairs, they create a light waistcoat using simple geometric shapes.

Printing tees

Presented with Imogen's Artspace

A school holidays run of t-shirt stenciling workshops for children.

Fashioning Social Inclusion

Presented with QUT

A 12-week sewing program with members of the Stafford Sudanese community.

August 2011

Glove Becomes Exhibition

Carla Binotto exhibits garments derived from the pattern pieces of a humble glove.

Glove = Gift of Love Workshop

Participants make a beautiful purse from a recycled vintage glove.

Public talks

Members participate in public talks as part of MBFF—QUT Fashion After Hours and Black Heat Forum.

July 2011

Zaprons workshop

Presented at Homegrown Festival

In this fun and simple workshop, participants learn about zero-waste making.

Eco-Local Exhibition

Eco-Local: an experimental exhibition that challenges local designers to use locally sourced materials, presenting their unique take on sustainability in fashion.

Textile dyeing workshop

Participants experiment with plant dyes, and imbue textiles with a distinctly eco/local flavour.

Public talk series

A range of talks discussing the cutting of cloth throughout history, current advances in waste minimisation and local production, as well as sustainable local fashion practice and wool production.

June 2011

Shirt Up!

Up-cycling fashion workshops, transforming a \$1 men's shirt into a nifty blouse, jacket or dress.

Children in Fashion

Sustainability workshops for children at Kelvin Grove State Primary School.

May 2011

2D design through collage

Presented at Ideas Festival

A workshop for young people that explores experimentation and play as design tools.

3D design through up-cycling

Presented at Ideas Festival

A workshop for young people, on transforming existing garments into exciting new clothes.

Public talk series

A series of studio talks and lectures, as well as an ethical fashion evening in conjunction with The Queensland Fair Trade Collective and Peppermint magazine

April 2011

Saviours of the Lost Arts

Presented with Brisbane City Council

A series of workshops on 'zero-waste' design and patternmaking.

Art Bites

Presented with Brisbane City Council

A series of up-cycling workshops for all age groups.

Silk Echo

Presented with QUT

A series of workshops on silk scarf painting, for women from the Kelvin Grove Afghan community.

November/December 2010

The Finery Project

Presented with Brisbane City Council Creative Communities

An eight-week program of sewing workshops for members of the Brisbane Karen refugee community.

A workshop series of sewing tuition for the local Sudanese community in Moorooka.

October 2010

The 'Fair' Trade

Presented with QUT

Fashion swap event and a 'make do and mend' workshop.

September 2010

Grunge vs Glamour

Presented with GoMA

2D design and collage workshops as part of GoMA's New Wave Teens program.

Cuffs and Collars

Presented with GoMA

An up-cycling fashion workshop as part of GoMA's New Wave Teens program.

July 2010

Textiles on the Body

Presented with Darnley Island Arts Centre

A week-long pattern-making and sewing program for local artists.

May/June 2010

Saviours of the Lost Arts

Presented with Brisbane City Council

Stitchery members speak at a panel discussion “Crafting Social Connections”,

Zero-waste clothing demonstration at Bleeding Heart Gallery, Brisbane.

Art Bites

Presented with Brisbane City Council

Up-Cycling Fashion workshops at Jagera Arts Centre, and Bracken Ridge Community Centre.

Want to work with The Stitchery Collective?

Contact us at info@thestitcherycollective.org.au

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