

Respond

As a group, we spoke about our individual interpretations of the 'Moment In Time' brief. Through discussion and mind-mapping, a recurring theme within our work was **disconnection**.



Photographs taken with expired film by Chloe



Interviews documented by Chloe

I think lockdown taught me a lot of things both emotionally and mentally. It's crazy how you can have so much taken from you in such a short space of time. For me personally, the simple unknown of when I'd see my friends again was quite challenging emotionally, all I wanted to do was just to see them face to face. However, having extra time for reflection and reminiscing, lockdown allowed me to find my love for hobbies that I haven't had time for in a while. I simply enjoyed the pleasure of being still for awhile and not getting caught up in life as a whole and sometimes the stress it can bring. I think, although how difficult and challenging lockdown was, and how difficult this pandemic continues to be, I'll be forever grateful for the reminder it gave us of the value of time and how we can utilise it wisely everyday.

Covid was a blessing but also a curse. I'm a social care worker so I continued to work alongside a team that was very important and still is. Are work is now upped twice the amount and the ladies I work with have become more dependent on me. During covid I worked week on week off. When I was on my week off I would drink wine and read before covid I wasn't really a drinker but now I enjoyed it as the weather was nice. At the start of my week off I would feel very down and struggle as I felt it would be ages before I could go back to work and keep busy. I then would often pop in to a friend who lived down the road and via versa we would social distance. I also visited family and social distance and this sometimes was very difficult as I'm a hugger and I just wanted to give them a hug especially my nieces and nephews. I realised I took everything for granted just going to the shop. I was always turning people down to do things because I was busy with work etc covid opened my eyes to this. I spent a lot of family time with my partner's family and I felt so grateful many late nights around a bonfire and we became a close group. When lockdown was lifted it changed me as a person I became friends with people that I didn't think I would. I take every opportunity to see family and friends, in my house it's changed though my partner's family has gone back to the way it was before and it makes me sad. I miss how that was but I'm grateful to have my independence back for now.

Lockdown made it difficult to see friends from college and family who I would usually see on a regular basis. However, coming out of lockdown, my friends and I are making more conscious decisions to meet up and socialise compared to pre covid and that's a huge positive.

My experience was a frustrating one, I was supposed to be emigrating to Australia in March and my flight was cancelled the week I was meant to be going. It just meant the first initial months of lockdown I was living out of my suitcase as I had no idea how long this would go on for. They kept prolonging it and prolonging it and as soon as flights were back, Melbourne went into a lockdown. So I've had an overwhelming feeling of just being stuck. I am still appreciating the extra time I have with my friends and family here. Also being in quarantine made me take on more freelance jobs than I normally would have, which has helped me with building confidence regarding working for myself.

Lockdown was a very hard time for everyone, but it made you appreciate the small things. I got to spend time with my family even though we killed each other half the time. I got to run more during this time than I usually would and eat a little more also.

Overall it was an ok experience. I didn't really feel any tension amongst the family despite us all living at home. I did find college extremely stressful from home because of poor internet, distractions etc. Mentally what made me suffer was the inability to see friends or do something fun. Also with stresses from work, I've never been so excited to go back to college and move away from home! 11/10, would do again 😊

It was great at the start now I hate it. I enjoyed the first few months because it gave me time to focus on my work, my projects and my fitness. As summer began I ran out of work and motivation, and became very aware of how much I missed doing summery things like going to festivals, and drinking pints in a beer garden. Now I'm just getting by, hoping for things to return to normal.

Overall lockdown has benefited me mentally and physically. My girlfriend lives in Dublin making things difficult but also made us stronger looking back. Not being able to go to pubs all the time has allowed me to work on my own physical well being a lot more and have made a lot more progress than before. I say "allowed" hinting that the temptation of pub life really does change a lot of things around you. I commute to Dublin for Kildare to work and that hasn't really changed. Another reason I've liked lockdown is work wasn't as much of a burden as it can be, more of a break away from my small town's little world coming to a stop. It's killed me at times wanting to see friends but it's made me appreciate the times I do now spend with them and also made me realise how important family is. Unfortunately it can take a pandemic to remind you what's really important. My grandfather passed from this horrible disease and it was a very hard time for all of us at home, especially during a time when we could only have 10 family members in the church... me not allowed to be one of them. We struggled day to day but together got through it. You don't forget it but family makes it more bearable.

Made me focus more on myself and self reflect which was nice but also made me realise how much I clash with my family now that they're at home all the time ;)

I live in a remote part of the countryside so the 2km distance restriction was scary at first because there basically was nothing but a post office within that distance. On the other hand it gave me a greater appreciation for my area as it is a protected nature reserve and I found a few new walking routes. Another thing that was weird was when a lot of my friends that had been overseas had to travel back home to Ireland but I still couldn't meet them for a few months in person, while normally you'd go out for some drinks to catch up maybe a week after they'd been back!



Embroidery by Clíodhna



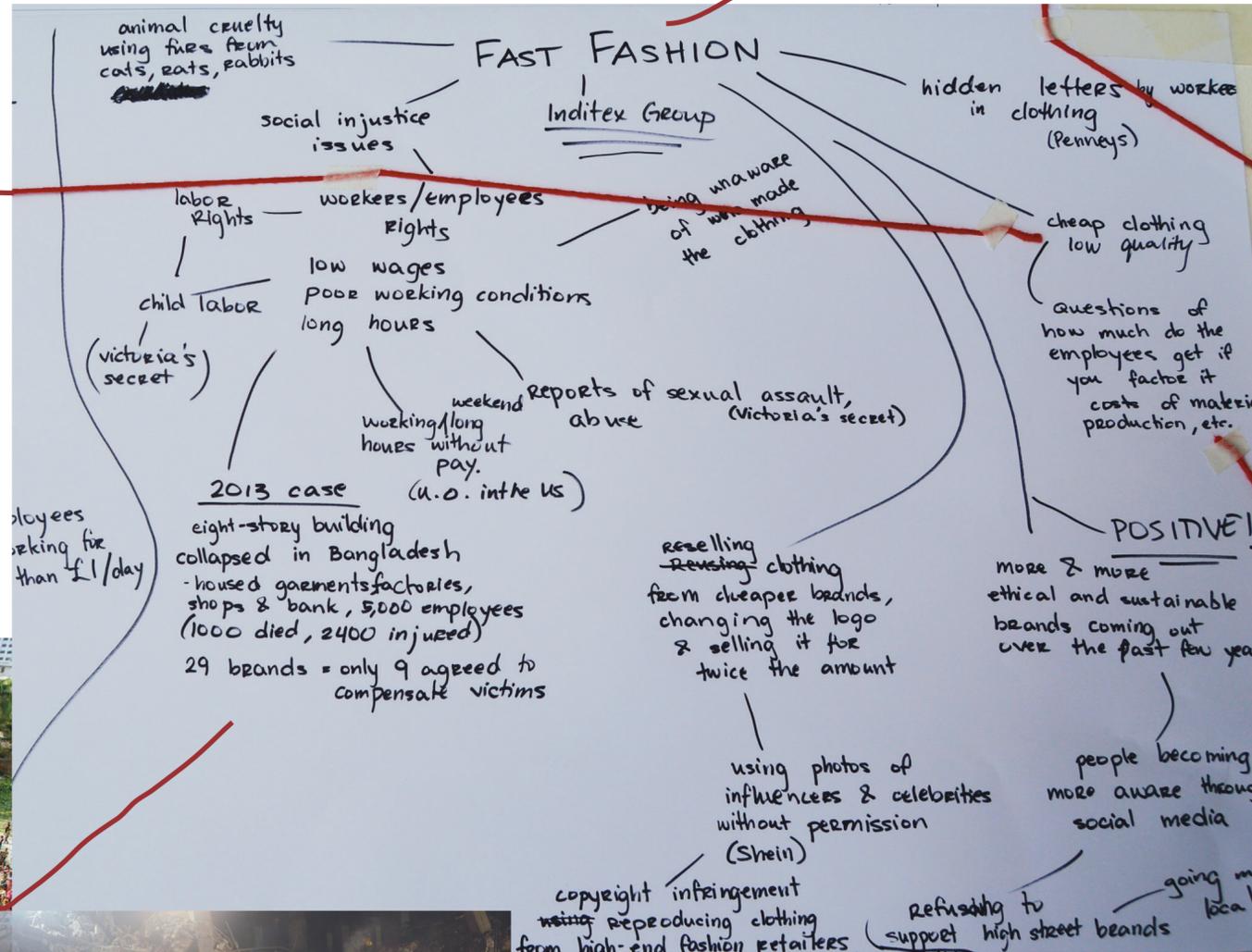
Collage by Aira

Research

With particular interest in SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), we began looking at human behaviour patterns around fast fashion and how clothing from these industries are poor quality and made with the intent of only being worn once.



The brands that came up most frequently in research and are culprits of getting their supplies from garment workers in Third World countries.



SOS! SOS! SOS!
 我们是中国湖北襄南监狱
 囚犯, 长期生产出口服装。我们每
 天劳动15个小时, 吃的是猪狗不
 如的饭菜, 干的是牛马一样的活。
 我们呼吁国际社会谴责
 中国政府这种践踏人权
 的行为!



From there, we began looking at the factories that these clothes were being made in and we found that the **garment workers** were being underpaid and were working in extremely dangerous conditions.

"The consumers have to know that they're in charge," Stella McCartney says. "If you don't like it, you don't have to buy into it."

Research

Digging deeper into the working conditions of garment workers in Third World countries, we uncovered some concerning information around the lack of human rights amongst these factories. We began to wonder how many of us consider **where our clothes were made, who made them and in what conditions?**



employs
60 - 75 million
people

Taking inspiration from **artists** who use sustainable materials to represent complex issues, we knew we wanted fabric to be a big element in our work.



Guerra de la Paz is a collaboration between Cuban-born artists Alain Guerra & Neraldo de la Paz. Through the use of second-hand clothing & discarded items, they create contemporary art installations that reference the politics of modern conflict & consumerism.

Alice Halliday is a couturier & fashion stylist based in Co. Cork, Ireland. She specializes in sustainable couture, using locally sourced & reclaimed materials & because of this, each piece she creates, holds a uniqueness and delicacy to it.



Inextricable link between the clothes we buy & the quality of people's lives

Global fashion industry = \$2.4 Trillion

* low wages
* unsafe working conditions
* domestic violence



Dan Halter's artistic practice is informed by his position as a Zimbabwean living in South Africa. By using materials ubiquitous to Africa & Zimbabwe, Halter employs the language of craft & curio as a visual strategy to articulate his concerns within a Fine Art context.

Derick Melander is known for creating large, geometric sculptures from carefully folded & stacked second-hand clothing. He uses second-hand clothing in his installations to connect with people and inspire them to be more sustainable in their day-to-day choices.

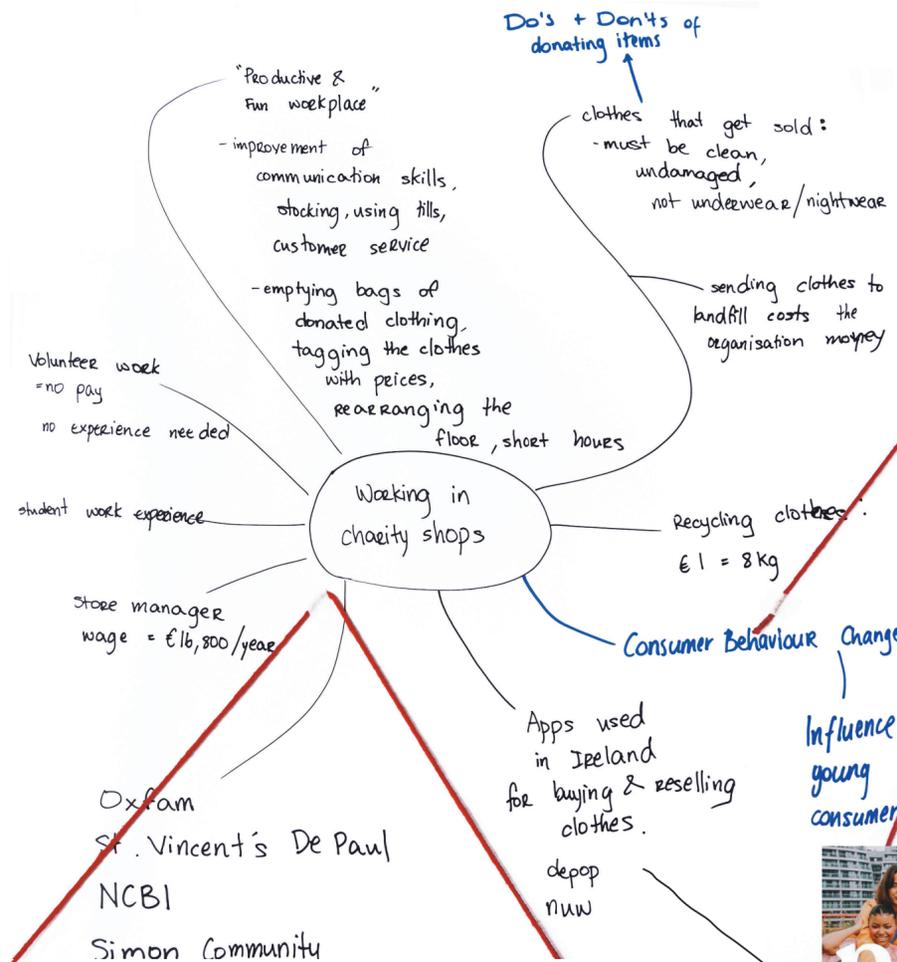


As consumers, we are a crucial part of the fashion and garment industry – in fact, we fuel its activities.

Anika Rahman (Feminist Lawyer)

Research

As a group we looked closer to home, researching and analyzing Ireland's position in the global contribution of textile waste. We discovered concerning trends when it came to Irish textile waste and consumption. A paragon of sustainability, the **charity shop**, has become our focus, exploring how we as a nation can donate our textile waste in a considerate and sustainable way.

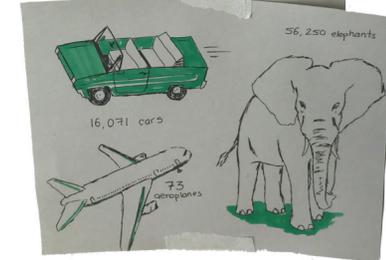
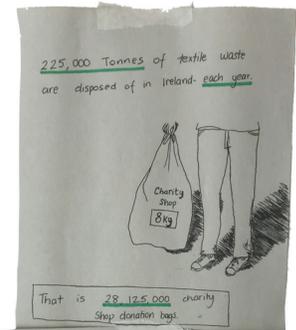
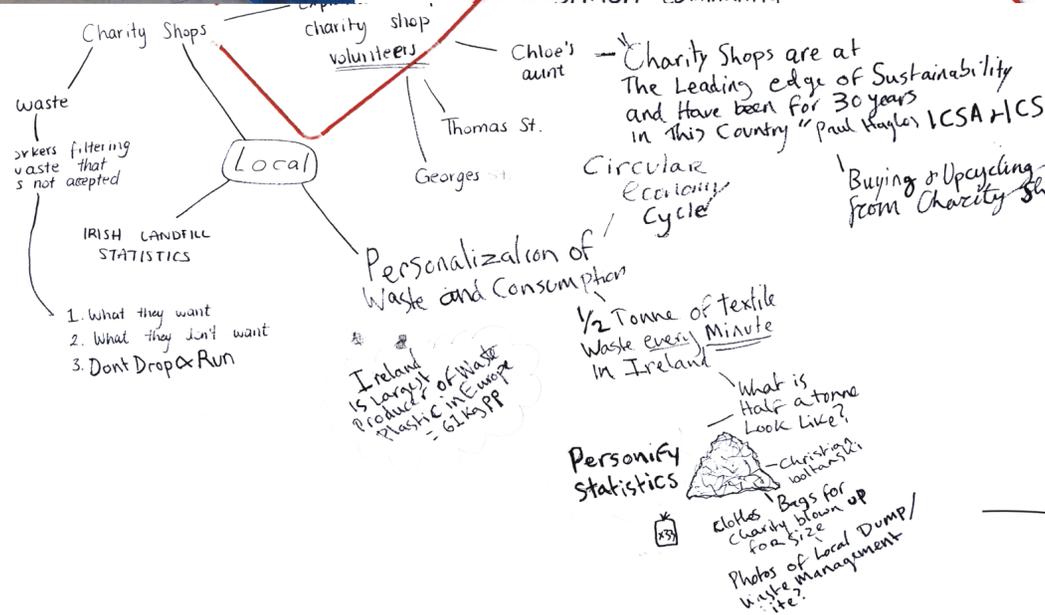


Landfills

2018 - Ireland approaching zero capacity in landfills

2011 - 127 landfills vs 2018 - 4 landfills

→ no update since
→ expected that by 2021, we will have NO LANDFILL capacity for 2 months of the year.



Research

Gathering **first-hand research** from volunteers in charity shops in Dublin, we gained a deeper understanding of what their job entails.

We compiled a list of questions to ask volunteers from charity shops in Dublin. We whittled it down to just **4 main questions** because of restrictions around social distancing and a limit on the time spent in shops.

1. How long have you been working here?
2. How did COVID-19/Lockdown affect the shop?
3. Do you have to dispose of any items from the donations you receive and how do you do that?
4. If you could tell the public one thing about donating what would it be?



“I get donations often that I **don't even want to put my hands on** they're so filthy.”

“It's a real 'Feel good thing' to donate.”

“If you wouldn't happily wear it because it's **damaged** or **dirty** then homeless people won't either.”



“Everyone has **too much** of everything”

“I care about **giving new life** to second hand clothes”

“I like that I can see their **previous life** and the **memories** behind those garments.”



“We get **piles of filthy unwashed items** into bags.”

“It's good to donate because you keep recycling and you're **helping the community.**”

“Our volunteers sort through the clothes and at the end have a **very small pile of saleable items.**”

Respond

As a group, we followed the journey of items of clothing that are donated to charity shops and clothing banks and discovered that there were **three main outcomes**.

Being at the end of the chain, the only way of solving the problem for African merchants is to dump the clothes on dumpsites.

The African continent has up to **20 out of 50 of the world's largest dumpsites**.

Many of our clothes today are made out of polyester and the **decomposition** of the material can take up to a **100 years**.

The environment for the people living close-by the dumpsites are being **compromised by air pollution** causing serious health issues.



2 Clothes that are wearable but aren't as good of quality (rag) are sent to a warehouse which will then be shipped to Third World countries.

3 Unwearable clothes are brought to landfill.

1 Good quality clothes are sold by the shop to make money for charity.



"There is no such thing as 'away'.
When we throw anything away it must go somewhere."
Annie Leonard



Modern garments are often made of multiple fibres and heavily embellished which makes **recycling complicated**.

It is estimated that only **4% of textiles are currently recycled**.

Textile recycling can be carried out **mechanically** (ripping and tearing the fabric apart) or by **chemical** means and is used for flocking for mattresses, animal bedding etc.

Recycling these textiles would reduce direct **greenhouse gas emissions** by over **300,000 tonnes per annum** (equivalent to reducing annual car use by almost 50,000 cars).

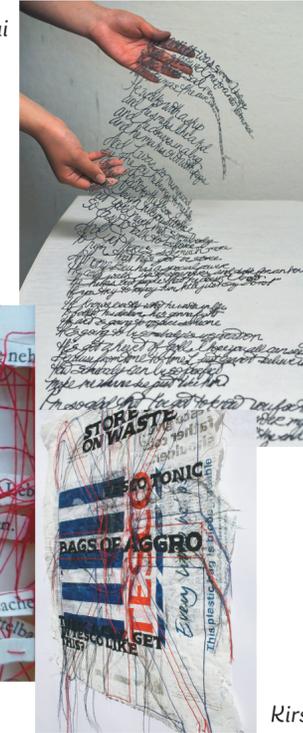
Most waste is shipped to European countries to be incinerated, a process that produces dioxins as a by product, which are considered to be a serious health hazard.

Create

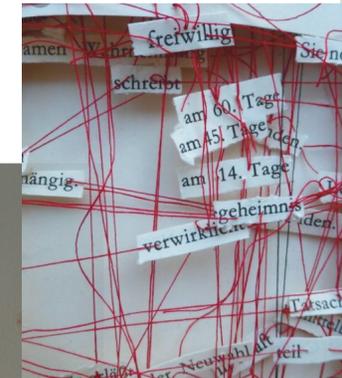
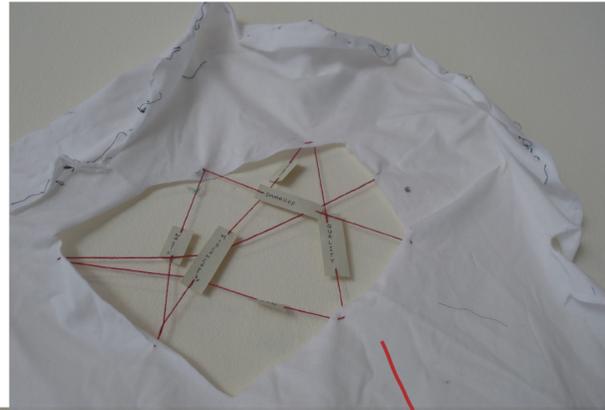
Through text, embroidery and staining unsustainable materials, we explored ways in which we could highlight issues around textile waste in Ireland and how we could be more considerate and sustainable when donating textiles.

Experiments using paper and embroidery to connect words gathered from interviews.

Antonius Bui

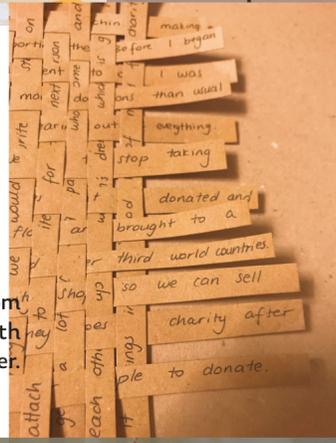


Louise Bourgeois

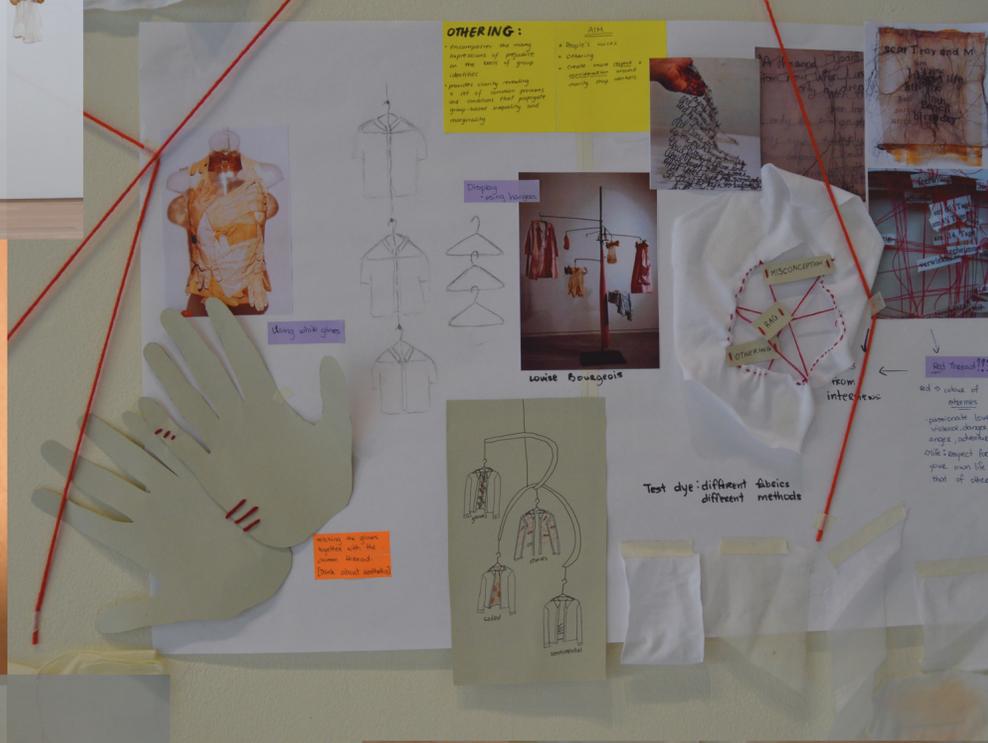


Anes Seidel

Lee McKenna



Weaving routes from the interviews with volunteers using paper.



Kirsty Whitlock

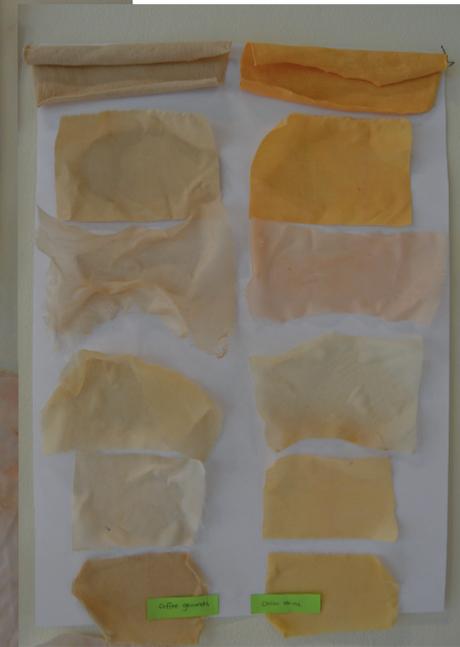


Experiments using embroidery and rubber gloves which volunteers use to sort through the clothing that gets donated.

Hands are also a symbol of giving and charity.



Experiments using avocado seeds, onion skins and coffee grounds on fabric to resemble damaged and dirty clothing.



Create

Through the use of **typography** and **embroidery**, our work highlights the issues that charity shop volunteers face each day represented as a triptych of white shirts that highlight the **three aspects of how clothes are donated**. With this artwork we hope to create awareness and consideration to those charity shop volunteers and the greater worldwide issue of reusing and recycling textiles.

The **Stories** shirt holds quotes from our interviews with volunteers that gives us an insight into their experience of working in charity shops.



"Clothing is...an exercise of memory...
It makes me explore the past...
how did I feel when I wore that..."

Louise Bourgeois

The **Sentimental** shirt represents the previous life of the clothes donated to charity shops and stories behind each item of clothing. This idea stemmed from the stories the volunteers told about people donating jewellery from previous relationships, wedding dresses or ornaments from their grandparent's house.



The **Soiled** shirt represents the unclean clothing volunteers have to sort through when they get donations. They use gloves when handling them. One volunteer in particular told us "I sometimes get clothes that are so filthy, I don't even want to put my hands on them." In the shape of a hand, the glove also symbolizes charity and giving.