Post-Grad Community

FAMILY HEIRLOOM





Introduction

The 2023/24 academic year marked a decade after the founding of UAL's Post-Grad Community, a platform for UAL postgraduate students to come together and find creativity and collaboration amongst their peers. To commemorate the last decade we decided to create The Post-Grad Family Heirloom, a collaborative and dynamic work of art, featuring 28 designs created by current students, alumni, and staff at UAL.

Artists and creatives were asked to design a piece of work that reflected their time at UAL, and their own personal experiences. Submissions were accepted throughout the year, with pieces being posted in from afar, handed into UAL Libraries, or created at dedicated Heirloom workshops. The overall piece is multidisciplinary, featuring techniques such as drawing, painting, embroidery, mixed media materials, collage, pastel, textile manipulation, and much more.

Why a Family Heirloom? We wanted to create a piece of history that could be passed down to future generations of postgraduates at UAL. The Heirloom was brought together with the shared experience of finding a community of likeminded creatives at UAL, and so in May 2024, artists who contributed to the piece joined together with Post-Grad Community Ambassadors and staff for The Big Stitch, an event held at Central Saint Martins which saw each individual piece brought together, curated in layout, and finally stitched together.

The Family Heirloom will finally find its place in the UAL Archives and Special Collections, having a fixed and secured place in UAL history for future postgraduates to enjoy.







Title: The Mango Tree and I

Artist: Omamah Ashmeel

College: Camberwell College of Arts

Course: MA Illustration, 2024

Materials: Cotton

About the artist:

Omamah Ashmeel is an illustrator and visual artist from Saudi Arabia. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Graphic Design from Dar Al-hekma University in Jeddah and later a diploma in Visual Development from Idea Academy in Rome. She is currently pursuing her Master's degree in illustration from the University of the Arts London. Omamah has illustrated multiple children's books with various publishers around the Gulf region as well as worked on commercial illustration projects with local brands. She is passionate about colors and characters and finds her inspiration in her own cultures, nature, myths, adventures, and emotions. She loves to tell stories with her work and always seeks to create work that is authentic and relatable.

About the work:

I wanted to represent myself with the figure and symbolize my childhood in the mango tree that was in my childhood home when I was a kid.

Follow Omamah on Instagram @ashmeelomamah





Title: Transformation

Artist: Mx D.P. Matthews

College: Central Saint Martins

Course: MA Fine Art (Digital), 2025

Materials: Silk and wool embroidery, beading and felting on

rough recycled canvas

About the artist:

Mx D.P. Matthews is a XD Non-binary Trans Artist. Their focus is Geo-political Climate Chaos and its intersection with Gender Identity, and Ableism. A Contemporary Dadaist, their mission is to explore new ways of developing The Network to weaponise art. To find futurity responses to geo-political crises of population displacement and resource scarcity. Challenging binary thinking and encouraging flexibility and adaptability in understanding and responding to humanity's new reality.

About the work:

'Transformation' intricately weaves together the personal journey of transgender identity. It's form reflects the dual nature of the trans experience. Freedom and sparkle, the relief of being oneself a sense of liberation and self-expression. Combined with the harsh realities of facing discrimination and rejection. Rough, piercing times, where hatred exists, where strangers look away, and old friends call you a gender traitor. 'Transformation' signifies the resilience and strength found in embracing the gold thread of truth.

Follow D.P. on Instagram @deematthewsart





Title: World's Your Oyster?

Artist: Ella Muir

College: London College of Fashion

Course: MA Costume Design for Performance, 2024

Materials: Embroidery on calico, glass beads

About the artist:

Ella Muir (she/her) is a costume designer and maker exploring folklore, queerness, and weirdness in her practice.

About the work:

I created this piece with my friend at an embroidery workshop where we experimented with embroidery techniques and beading.

Follow Ella on Instagram @efbmuir





Title: Confiance' (2024)

Artist: Olivia Burgess

College: London College of Communication

Course: MA Interaction Design, 2023

Materials: Embroidery

About the artist:

Olivia is a French American dancer, photographer, filmmaker and instillation artist currently based in London. She holds a Masters in interaction design from UAL's London College of Communication and a BFA in dance performance from Fordham University and the esteemed Ailey School. She has exhibited at Ars Electronica, the University of the Arts London, Gallery Kollectiff and Rockaway Beach Club. Her documentary short 'Rebirth' has had worldwide premieres at Dances With Film NY, Fisheye Film Festival UK, Cine Paris Film Festival, and New Renaissance Film Festival NL.

About the work:

A depiction of an unwavering and confident Venus. Strong winds carry her long mane of hair but she stands earthed and unshaken, ready to channel her feminine strengths to overcome whatever obstacle.

Follow Olivia on Instagram @olb.studio / @olivialburgess

OLIVIA BURGESS



Title: Moonlit Dragonfly

Artist: V Hayward

College: Wimbledon College of Arts

Course: MA Theatre and Performance Design

Materials: Colour pencil, biscuit tray plastic and collected lace.

About the artist:

V is an artist working ceramics, textiles and junk moddeling exploring societal relationships with the natural environment and the connection to concepts in Physics and Earth Sciences. Their work often takes the form of fantastical scenes and, as a result of their current practice in theatre design, V's pieces often tell or portray a story surrounding the theme at hand, to better isolate and explore it and allow the viewer to do the same.

About the work:

This piece evolved as I worked on it, beginning with the placement of the plastic pieces. The shapes of these inspired pencil colouring that began resembling Kandinsky-esque shooting stars and a bright moon in a deep blue sky. Wanting to build on this incidental celestial theme I endeavoured to emphasise the shapes in the way I sewed the plastic onto the base fabric. The lace and flower additions were added instinctively from exploring what I had in my sewing box and feeling which colours, shapes and textures felt right, resulting in a finished picture that to me feels both calming and energetic. My favourite element is the embroidery thread dragonfly in the lower left corner by the moon-like drawing, which inspired the piece's title.

Follow V on Instagram @bottledtorydesigns





Title: When we were wild

Artist: Cecily King

College: Chelsea College of Arts

Course: Graduate Diploma, 2024

Materials: Pen and cloth

About the artist:

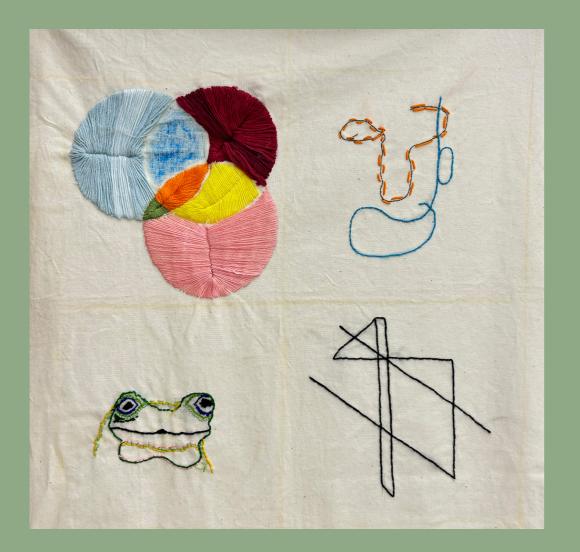
I am a collage artist who works with a variety of materials to create works that are usually political or thought provoking. My philosophy is that I always try and use second hand or discarded items to create my works. My undergraduate degree was Art History, so jumping into the art world at a post graduate level has been a fast paced journey. However, I've learned so much from my peers and from my course and I'm excited for the future.

About the work:

I interweaved one of my favourite poems around a quick drawing I did of a swallow. This is a reference back to my childhood in Devon, and the nostalgia and longing I feel for those days where I could spend days running wild and barefoot through the trees and the fields with my next door neighbours, having adventures and creating our own world.

Follow Cecily on Instagram <a>@theemberstree





Title: Toadal

Artist: Fred Kavanagh

Materials: Embroidery and crayon

About the artist:

Post-Grad Community and Events Coordinator, 2021-2024

About the work:

Being an first-time embroider, the contents are reflective of teachings, guidance and encouragement of the workshop facilitators. It speaks to the community spirit fostered throughout the Family Heirloom project, with beginners learning alongside seasoned stitchers in calming, safe spaces.

FRED KAVANAGH



Title: Untitled

Artist: Filip Jan Gesse

College: London College of Fashion

Course: MA Costume Design for Performance, 2024

Materials: Cotton

About the artist:

Filip Gesse is a Kashubian-Polish costume-centred performance maker and textile artist. His practice explores merging political theatre practices with traditional crafts, contemplating heritage, identity, and belonging.

About the work:

The small piece was created in a mindful embroidery workshop held by the post-grad community. Community-building through collective embroidery is widely practised among my native ethnic group of Kashubians so I always try to get involved in as many events of this kind as possible. Taking a free-flowing approach to composition and choice of imagery, the piece ended up a collage of a freehand self-portrait with embellishments I know both from Kashubian textile arts and from my later artistic education in the west. Thus, it is an artefact of the great value of communal embroidery in self-development.

Follow Filip on Instagram @filipjangesse

FILIP JAN GESSE





Title: For V

Artist: Huong Tra Nhu

College: Camberwell College of Arts

Course: MA Illustration, 2024

Materials: Crayon on Cotton

About the artist:

Tra Nhu is an illustrator and art director from Hanoi, Vietnam. Wishing to craft insightful, positive and inclusive visual narratives, Tra is always eager to work on any project centered around wellbeing or sustainability.

About the work:

This piece is made on the day of Post-Grad Community's 'The Big Stitch' and made for V, our sewing technician who has brought all the artwork together!

Follow Tra on Instagram @averagetea_

HUONG TRA NHU



Title: Ferris Wheel

Artist: Jie Zhang

College: Camberwell College of Arts

Course: MA Illustration, 2024

Materials: Cotton, plastic

About the artist: Jie Zhang, China, (B.1997)

About the work:

The Ferris wheel in London reminded me of an iconic building near where I used to live. This inspired me to create this work to alleviate the feelings of missing my hometown. The process of sewing also helps me contemplate the definition of home.

JIE ZHANG



Title: Camberwell Campus Gateway

Artist: Ye Ouyangl

College: UAL Creative Computing Institute

Course: MSc Creative Robotics, 2024

Materials: Embroidery

About the artist:

N/a

About the work:

This piece is an embroidered depiction of the entrance to the Camberwell Campus. I chose to create it using needle and thread to capture the warmth and community spirit that I experience every time I pass by. The gathering of students during breaks always forms a lively and comforting scene, making me feel a sense of belonging and connection.





Title: N/A

Artist: Sarah Taylor

College: Central Saint Martins

Course: MA Fine Art, 2025

Materials: Cloth, tights, walnut water, rainwater

About the artist:

Sarah Taylor is a process-led artist working subconsciously with everyday materials she considers 'found objects'. Her experiments with materials are intuitive, immediate and honest, following instinctive lines of enquiry and tracing themes of repetition, layering and interconnection. Her sculptural weavings, prints and drawings create a platform to unveil her subconscious, often exploring loss and identity together with the fragility of human relationships. Sarah graduated with a First Class Honours Degree in Fine Art from The Glasgow School of Art in June 2023 and began the Fine Art MA at Central St Martins in London in September 2023

About the work:

Floor cloth soaked in harvested walnuts and rainwater with a leg of dyed tights woven to create the word 'mum'. This floor cloth represents the invisibility of women's work, which encompasses the responsibility of caring for the entire family.

Follow Sarah on Instagram @sarahtaylorrtist





Title: N/A

Artist: Jess Frankland

College: Chelsea College of Arts

Course: BA Graphic Design Comunication, 2016

Materials: Cotton, crayon

About the artist: Multidisciplinary Artist

About the work:

Fun colours and expressions, created throughout a series of evenings in the winter.

JESS FRANKLAND



Title: n/a

Artist: LinliLi

College: Camberwell College of Arts

Course: MA Computational Art, 2024

Materials: Cotton, crayon

About the artist:

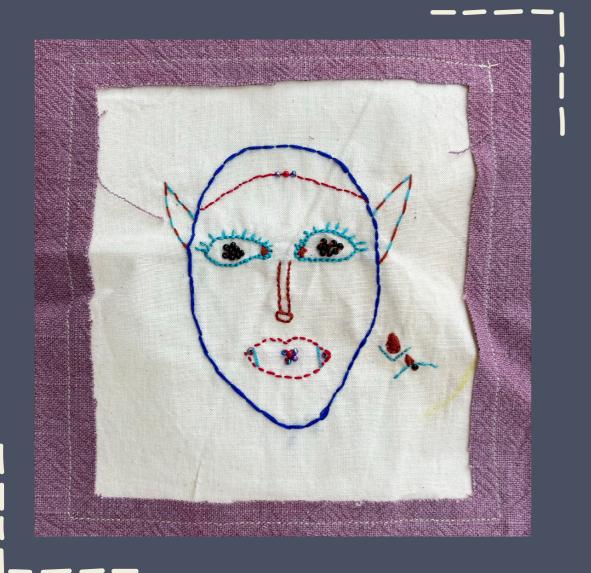
n/a

About the work:

n/a

Follow LinliLi on Instagram @lilinli108

LINLILI



Title: Self-Portrait

Artist: Edima Willie

College: UAL Creative Computing Institute

Course: MSc Data Science & Al for the Creative Industries, 2024

Materials: Embroidery

About the artist:

N/A

About the work:

I've always been drawn to unconventional beauty and vivid colours. I wanted to use bright colours without making it too chaotic while keeping the features simple.

Follow Edima on Instagram @edimaa

EDIMA WILLIE



Title: Ars et Scientia

Artist: Suzanne Abell

College: Central Saint Martins

Course: MA Art and Science, 2025

Materials: Embroidery

About the artist:

I am an interdisciplinary artist focusing on environmental issues. Currently, in my first year MA at CSM (Art and Science) I previously worked in the field of Oral surgery, having trained as a dentist. My work focuses on environmental and conservation issues with a current interest in plastic pollution.

About the work:

I have been using embroidery in some of my recent work and enjoy freestyle design. The MAAS Logo was created by a past alumnus Sandra Berghianou.

Follow Suzanne on Instagram @suzanneabell

SUZANNE ABELL



Title: Everything Grows

Artist: Emma Louise Rixhon

College: London College of Fashion

Course: PhD, 2026

Materials: Embroidery

About the artist:

n/a

About the work:

I created this as an optimistic way of dealing with change, that things in our lives reflect the nature around us, that everything is in a constant shift but this is for moments when we bloom. I needed to sit with some cautious optimism.

Discover more of Emma's work at emmalouiserixhon.com

EMMA LOUISE RIXHON



Title: N/A

Artist: Fengge Luna Li

College: London College of Fashion

Course: Graduate Diploma Fashion Management, 2022

Materials: Cotton, fabric pen

About the artist:

N/A

About the work:

N/A

FENGGE LUNA LI



Title: Swimming Pool

Artist: Meloche Huang

College: Camberwell College of Arts

Course: MA Fine Art: Drawing, 2024

Materials: Textile, string, pastel

About the artist:

Meloche Huang's works primarily feature a dreamy, childlike, and surreal artistic style, incorporating a dream-core visual aesthetic. In her creations, she mainly utilizes materials such as pastels, colore pencils, and ceramics. Meloche aims to explore themes of loneliness, self-identity, and self-healing, dedicating herself to giving voice to individuals suffering from depression, depersonalization, and those who have experienced psychological abuse during childhood. Meloche studied at the China Central Academy of Fine Arts, and is currently pursuing a degree in MA Drawing at UAL.

About the work:

This artwork depicts a corner of a night poolside bar. From outside the pool, the interior tiles and chairs are cast in a layer of blue shadow, resembling a scene from another world. Meloche captures a captivating glimpse of the blue-hued scenery, confronting a psychedelic world existing within fantasy. In the creative process, Meloche intends to blur the lines between reality and reflection using pastels, while the stitched lines and fabrics serve as reminders of the scene's authenticity.

Follow Meloche on Instagram @meloche0791

MELOCHE HUANG





Title: Coccoon Breaking

Artist: Jiani Hu

College: UAL Creative Computing Institute

Course: MSc Creative Robotics, 2024

Materials: Cotton, thread, coloured pen

About the artist:

N/A

About the work:

N/A

Follow Jiani on Instagram @is_niniki

JIANI HU



Title: Patchwork

Artist: V Hayward

College: Wimbledon College of Arts

Course: MA Theatre and Performance Design

Materials: Made with a range of fabrics including cotton, linen, vintage lace.

About the artist:

V is an artist working ceramics, textiles and junk moddeling exploring societal relationships with the natural environment and the connection to concepts in Physics and Earth Sciences. Their work often takes the form of fantastical scenes and, as a result of their current practice in theatre design, V's pieces often tell or portray a story surrounding the theme at hand, to better isolate and explore it and allow the viewer to do the same.

About the work:

This piece was created as the whole heirloom was being stitched together, in order to have the right number of squares for a finished quilt. I learnt a lot while sewing together the first panel of the heirloom piece, and as such, I wanted to pay hommage to the nature of the whole piece by creating my own small scale quilt. It is made using fabrics that I have collected from important places to me, including Durham, Tynemouth Market, and the charity shops near my parents home, and in a way it represents the effect that the responsibility of sewing this heirloom piece together has had on me, and the impact I have had on it.

Follow V on Instagram @bottledtorydesigns





Title: At the Mary Quant exhibition at the V&A in 2019

Artist: Mario Hamad

College: London College of Communication

Course: PhD, 2020

Materials: Cotton, crayon

About the artist:

Mario Hamad is a filmmaker and visual artist primarily active in drawing, printmaking and analogue film. His audio-visual works span music video, fashion film, short fiction and politically-engaged moving image. He graduated with a practice-based PhD from LCC in 2020.

About the work:

This drawing was done as I looked at a photo taken in 2019 of myself and a group of UAL post-grad students at the Mary Quant exhibition at the V&A. It was an event I proposed to the Post-Grad Community at the time - to take post grads out to see the Mary Quant exhibition at the V&A. The grad school liked the idea and paid for our tickets. We had a great day - first we saw the exhibition, and then we went out for pancakes. I wrote a little story about it that's now up on the postgrad community website, along with testimonials from the students who attended, as well as the photo of us at the exhibition.

Discover Mario's film work on Vimeo (Mario Hamad).

Mario's political film work can be found on the Wujoud Collective vimeo account. Follow Mario on Instagram @mariohamad





Title: Escapes and Ladders

Artist: Madeleina Kay

College: Central Saint Martins

Course: MA Fine Art (Digital), 2025

Materials: Guache paint and embroidery thread on canvas

About the artist:

Madeleina Kay is an artist and activist, awarded 'Young European of the year' (2018) studying MA Fine Art at Central Saint Martins. In 2019, she was awarded a 'Democracy Needs Imagination' grant from the European Cultural Foundation to deliver her project 'The Future is Europe', which was awarded the Charlemagne Youth Prize in 2020. She has written, illustrated and self-published nine books and contributed writing to the German National Library's 'House of Europe' book (2020), 'The Other Side: An Emotional Map of Britain' by GraphicDesign& (2020) and 'Ways of Protest', by Round Lemon' (2020). She has written and performed protest songs at events across Europe, including 'The Right to Vote' exhibition opening at the National Justice Museum, UK (2018), Glastonbury Festival, UK (2019), Aachen Town Hall (2022), the European Parliament (2023) and Stormont, NI Assembly (2024).

About the work:

The piece is an exploration of cognitive processing in response to the chaos of life; traumatic experiences and opportunities for self-development and growth.

Follow Madeleina on Instagram @madeleina_kay

MADELEINA KAY



Title: Home Remade Human

Artist: Jialin Geng

College: London College of Fashion

Course: MA Pattern and Garment Technology, 2023

Materials: Cotton, leather, fabric pen

About the artist:

Jialin Geng (b. 1996, Shanghai, China), now a London-based sustainable fashion designer, technical researcher and artist. In her creative universe, there are not just garments, but narratives woven with threads, installations and technology, telling stories of individuality, empowerment, and symbiotic relationship between artistry and constructive design language. Claiming to dialogue fashion in timeless concept with the purpose of providing the wearable imagination of the circular systematic future as an interdisciplinary artist.

About the work:

There is an anonymous portrait of a 'Home Remade Human' created for a hypothetical family as a background. It has upcycled different materials to form the facial expression of this future mankind, rough connective stitching around the eyes layed as a symbolization of homemade interaction with hurried chasing for the overrated societal production for the future mankind. The opening mouth with large proportion will still represent the biotic instinct of self-exploration for the next generation inheritance rather than keeping silence without consciousness.

Discover more of Jialin's work at behance.net/chrisgeng





Title: Connected Campus

Artist: Rachael Lakhan

Materials: Sharpie fabric pen

About the artist:

Post-Grad Community Founder and Manager since 2013

About the work:

Drawing the six college buildings together as one demonstrates how Post-Grad Community connects students from across it's six colleges in London and brings them together into a community.

RACHAEL LAKHAN



Title: Spiritual Stitching

Artist: Catriona Mahmoud

Materials: Embroidery on Calico

About the artist:

Catriona has been the Post-Grad Community Liaison Coordinator since 2021. She is also founder of the Post-Grad Community Interest Group, Spiritual Stitching, a collective across UAL bringing together textile and stitching artists.

About the work:

This work was developed during a series of workshops held for the Post-Grad Community Family Heirloom. These workshops were titled 'Spiritual Stitching', as a way to bring together the ancient art of embroidery and the imagery associated with mysticism, spirituality, witchcraft, and astrology. This final piece portrays a sky full of spiritual symbolism, from the moon and stars to crystals and zodiac constellations. It then represents nature through a butterfly at the bottom of the piece. Central to this is UAL's Post-Grad Community logo, showing the way community interests like this have been brought together by the platform.

CATRIONA MAHMOUD



Title: Post-Grad Community

Artist: Catriona Mahmoud

Materials: Embroidery on Calico

About the artist:

Catriona has been the Post-Grad Community Liaison Coordinator since 2021. She is also founder of the Post-Grad Community Interest Group, Spiritual Stitching, a collective across UAL bringing together textile and stitching artists.

About the work:

This piece displays the Post-Grad Community logo surrounded by an abstract circle of lines, similar to that of a fingerprint. The piece represents the importance of identity and joining together as a community, something which the Post-Grad Community platform has successfully been accomplishing since its founding in 2013.

CATRIONA MAHMOUD



Title: Ever Flourishing

Artist: Rachael Lakhan

Materials: Iron on transfers and stickers

About the artist:

Post-Grad Community Founder and Manager since 2013

About the work:

Post-Grad Community grows and flourishes year on year, I wanted to have a colourful piece that represents the students blooming through their experience at UAL like a well tended and resilient garden.

RACHAEL LAKHAN

THANK YOU

The Post-Grad Community Family Heirloom would not have been possible without the help, advice, encouragement and support of our Post-Grad Ambassadors, Charmaine Wah, Tra Nhu, Zina Mbanefo, Winifred Ahupa, Abigail Rigby, Jana Abou Nasr, and Kat Newman; the 2023-2024 Post-Grad Community team, Rachael Lakhan, Fred Kavanagh, Catriona Mahmoud, Leanne Benford, and Sanaz Movahedi; the UAL Archives and Special Collections team, Billie Coxhead, Elisabeth Thurlow, Elizabeth Higgs, Georgina Orville, Lucie Pardue, Lucy Parker, Sarah Mahurter, Zoe Buckberry, Jacqueline Winston-Silk, and Erin Liu; the UAL Library Services, Siobhan Britton, Kasia Idzi, Pat Dibben, David Smith, Grace O'Driscoll, Rowan Williamson, Helen Davies, Tyabba Siddiqui, Kelli Staake, Lisa Chadwick, and Zakariya Gayle; the Post-Grad Community Family Heirloom artists, Jialin Geng, Jie Zhang, Fengge Luna Li, Sarah Taylor, Jessica Frankland, Omamah Ashmeet, V Hayward, Meloche Huang, Filip Jan Gesse, Edima Willie, Suzanne Abell, Olivia Burgess, Ella Muir, Cecily King, and Mario Hamad; the Family Heirloom catalogue designer, Magdalena Koegeler; and finally to all members of UAL's Post-Grad Community, we can't wait to see what's in store for the next 10 years!



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