

CURRICULUM VITAE

Matthew J. Coombes

Date of Birth: 18 June 1978

Personal Address: 33 Fosse Road Central, Leicester, LE3 5PU

Phone: +447792716049

Email: matt@contradictorydesign.com

HIGHER EDUCATION

2012 – 2015: research at PhD level (fully funded), Northumbria University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK

Field: Design and Dementia

Title: "Perception, Empathy and Selfhood: An empathic design exploration of connecting with individuals who have dementia through dialogical props"

2009 – 2011: MFA in Design, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

Field: Critical Design, Speculative Design

Title: "Blood, Sweat and Tears"

2006 – 2009: BA Honours in Product Design, Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh, UK

Final Year Project: "Non-therapeutic Tools for Grieving"

1998 – 2001: BA Art Theory, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, NZ

Modules: Art Theory, Psychology, Philosophy, History of Art, Anthropology, American Studies, English

RESEARCH SPECIALISATION

Critical Design focusing on three-dimensional design (theory and practice) with a particular interest in wellbeing, dialogue and sensitive subjects such as: grieving, menstruation, sweat, dementia, homelessness, body/movement.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2015 – 2016: Part-time lecturing, Design and Digital Arts, School of Art, Design and Creative Industries, Edinburgh Napier University, Edinburgh, UK. This includes preparation and delivery of modules (Design Research Methods, Competitions, Design research Portfolio supervision) as well as feedback, examination, marking and research project supervision.

2013 – 2015: Befriending Volunteer, Alzheimer's Society Gateshead

February 2015: founder of Contradictory Design (design consultancy). I have worked on the following contracts:

- **2016 – present:** Branding and Graphic Design for the Interdisciplinary Gender and Sexuality Research Cluster of University of Leicester, UK
- **October 2015 – April 2016:** Design Consultant for Hearts & Minds on the Artful

Minds project (dementia) which involved designing and making objects, archiving and producing reports

- **December 2015:** Instructor for the Football Tango Project, English Homeless Football
- **June – September 2015:** Design Consultant for County Durham Sport, which involved workshops and producing a report on mental health pathways to physical activity
- **March/April 2015:** Design Consultant for Quality of Life Partnership which involved evaluating the charity's funding scheme, interviewing, designing and running feedback event and producing a written report

2012: Intern at Activate Group (international design agency), Singapore, which involved collaborating on interior and product design projects and designing interface for internal research database for designers

2012: Personal Tutor for ECA Masters students, Edinburgh

January – March 2012: Artist in Residence, Fiskars, Finland, which involved exploring localised materials through designing and making, collaboration with local artists and producing an exhibition based on local people and culture

June – August 2008: lighting assembly and workshop technician at Mike Stoane Lighting

SKILLS

Adobe Creative Suite, Rhinoceros, SolidWorks, 3DStudioMax, Microsoft Office, experience with VLE's (Blackboard, Moodle), Turnitin

Wood and metal working, plastics, ceramics, jewellery, lighting, drawing, photography

Facilitation, qualitative and participatory research, critical thinking, academic writing

PROJECTS AND FUNDINGS

2016: "Diversity in the Modern Languages Curriculum", collaborative project with the University of Leicester (School of Arts) and 'My Workshop' (Fox and Company). Currently applying to the Leverhulme Trust Artist in Residence Grant

2015: collaborative research days with University of Leicester (School of Arts) funded by the Enterprise and Knowledge Travel Fund

2012: Doctoral funding (studentship) in Design and Dementia, Northumbria University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK

2009: MFA in Design funded by PSAAS, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2016: Currently submitting an application to become an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy

2014: An Introduction to Participatory Action Research: process, practice and impact (2 days)

2013-2015: Full training through the Alzheimer's Society with completion of the following courses:

- Influencing others to change
- Dementia Awareness and Person-centred approaches
- Safeguarding vulnerable adults: one day workshop
- Dementia Awareness

2010: Dialogue Workshop (2 days) on facilitation and dialogue between distinct disciplines, aimed at better policy making

2000: Photography courses through Christchurch Polytechnic

- Photographing People
- Photography Portfolio

CONFERENCES AND COMMUNICATION

Forthcoming

2016: Queer Tango Salon, Paris, France "Tango and Well-being: Designing a Gendered Experience:"

Past Presentations:

2015: Design4Health Conference, Sheffield, UK: "Dialogical Props and Individuals with Dementia"

2014: Dementia Congress, Brighton, UK: poster presentation, "Connecting with Individual Dementia Through Design Objects in a Theatre of Conversation"

2014: Nomadic Salon, Sunderland, UK: "Theatricality and Fiction in Dialogical Spaces"

2014: PhD by Design Conference, London, UK: "Perception, Empathy and Selfhood: an Empathic Design Exploration"

2013: Research through Design Conference, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK: "Empathy and the Individual"

2013: Designing Pleasurable Products and Interfaces Conference, "Selfhood, Empathy and Perception: Reshaping Relationships with Dementia"

2010: iGEM, MIT, Cambridge, USA: "Communicating through Bridges"

PUBLICATIONS

Coombes, M., "Dialogical Props and Individuals with Dementia", *Proceedings of the Third European Conference on Design4Health 2015* (Sheffield: Sheffield Hallam University, 2015) pp. 1-9.

Coombes, M., Wallace, J & Blythe, M, 2013, "Empathy and the Individual" in *Praxis + Poetics: Research Through Design 2013 Conference Proceedings* (Newcastle Upon Tyne: Northumbria University, 2013), pp. 120-123.

Coombes, M., Wallace, J & Blythe, M, "Selfhood, empathy and perception: reshaping relationships with dementia" in *Proceedings of 6th International Conference on Designing Pleasurable Products and Interfaces* (New York: ACM, 2013), pp. 3-5.

EXHIBITIONS

2015: Design4Health Conference Exhibition, Sheffield, UK: "Dialogical Props and Individuals with Dementia"

2013: Design4Health Conference Exhibition, Sheffield, UK: "Non-therapeutic Tools of Grieving"

2013: Research through Design Conference Exhibition, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK: "Single Tear Catcher and Book Probe"

2012: "Imperfect Structures" (solo), Fiskars, Finland

2011: ECA Postgraduate Degree Show, Edinburgh, UK: "Critical Sweat", "Blood, Sweat and Tears"

2011: "Dirty Laundry" (solo), Inspace, Edinburgh, UK

2009: The Shape of Things to Come, Gin Palace, Glasgow, UK: "Single Tear Catchers"

2009: Designersblock, London, UK: "Non-therapeutic Tools of Grieving"

2009: ECA Degree Show, Edinburgh, UK: "Non-therapeutic Tools of Grieving"

2008: Bute@ECAStand, Glasgow, UK: "Saville Sofa"

2008: Bute@ECAExhibition, Edinburgh, UK: "Saville Sofa"

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

2013 – present: Teaching Argentine tango, directing groups and individuals through a planned lesson focusing on movement and musicality while adapting to situations as they arise, catering to various ways of learning, skill level, and personalities

REFEREES

On request.