

Caryn Simonson is Course Leader for BA (Hons) Textile Design and Acting Programme Director for Graphic Communications and Textile Design at Chelsea College of Arts, University of the Arts London (UAL). She completed an MA Textiles in 1995 at Goldsmiths, University of London. Prior to MA study, she worked as a designer/maker within theatre and TV (BBC North). Caryn's work attracted media coverage and was presented by Caryn Franklin on the BBC's Clothes Show. Her headwear sold to music industry clients and TV personalities. As an artist and curator, she has exhibited work internationally across photography, video, sculpture, installation and writing. She is an editorial board member for *Textile: the Journal of Cloth and Culture* (Routledge/Taylor and Francis) and the *International Journal of Motorcycle Studies* (IJMS). Caryn organised the 2013 and 2016 IJMS conferences in London. She curated accompanying exhibitions *Motorcycle Cultures: fashioning bikes, building identities* in collaboration with Space Station Sixty Five gallery (2013) and recently *Motorcycle Cultures II* in collaboration with BOLT motorcycles.

Caryn will be curating a UAL: Chelsea section at the Art Space for Kickback. The exhibition will include designed objects, photography, sculpture and film drawing upon work from UAL including staff and alumni at Chelsea College of Arts and a selection of work from *Motorcycle Cultures* exhibitions.

Caryn's own work explores fabric and semiotics, textiles and gender and how material meanings affect the representation of textiles within digital, virtual and photographic environments. She is interested in 'transformation' or the re-presentation of objects and images which render the functional dysfunctional.

Her semi-documentary photographic portraits depict 'dressed-up', customised motorbikes and owners, staged in ways to open up questions around individuality or group allegiance, fact and fiction, the 'amateur' and the professional.

Her studies into motorcycle cultures examines the cultural production of images in design, specifically how brand revival in fashion affects the way that consumers consume from a theoretical and cultural context. Her IJMS conference papers analyse and reflect on the impact of this on different communities and how appropriation of identities impacts on groups, individuals and trends. 'Telling Stories: Brand Revival, from motorcycle clothing to luxury fashion' and 'Fashionable' Bikers and 'Biker' Fashion examine fashion's love affair with the 'biker' image, this ongoing research explores the influence of 'fashion' on the brand revivals of luxury fashion and motorcycle marques.

International Journal of Motorcycle Studies:

www.motorcyclestudies.org

Instagram: [motorcycle_studies](https://www.instagram.com/motorcycle_studies)

Conferences/exhibitions:

www.ijms2013.wordpress.com

www.ijms2016.wordpress.com