

Weaving Futures



Briefing Pack

Weaving Futures: Project Data

Project Brief for Residents

Without the jacquard loom punch card system there would be no computers and as such no digital data. This fact illustrates how textiles are often overlooked as mere surface decoration but, in fact have had great influence over our lives in many unseen ways for generations. In transport today, data is treated with great reverence, what if textiles were seen in the same light, as a powerful tool for communication, progress and insight?

All residents are invited to work to a brief exploring data and Transport in London. This is a very loose brief and can be tackled in any way you want and we encourage blue skies thinking and innovation!

During your residency you will be working with a weaver who will be interpreting your ideas into digital woven textiles prototypes and at a minimum one final work representing your approach will be woven.

We are in negotiation with a mill to explore the possibility of making each residents outcome into larger pieces and potentially for a touring exhibition.

Background to the 'Weaving Futures' project

'Moquette, derived from the French word for carpet, is a type of woven pile fabric in which cut or uncut threads form a short dense cut or loop pile. As well as giving it a distinctive velvet-like feel, the pile construction is particularly durable, and ideally suited to applications such as public transport' (Wikipedia)

Moquette fabric/weaving has been integral to design within Transport for London since c1920's, providing the most iconic customer touch point on public transport vehicles. Most people are aware of the fabric intrinsically, but not aware that it is bespoke and woven on a jacquard loom.

To this end LTM commissioned Philippa Brock & Samuel Plant Dempsey to design an exhibition which potentially explores the role of and pushes the boundaries of woven textiles in public transport.

The TC2 Digital Jacquard Loom

The digital jacquard loom being used for this exhibition is purposely flexible to allow for a variety of innovative approaches to woven textiles and public transport

The loom in Weaving Futures cannot weave moquette - though if you wish for a 'similar' effect, we have yarns available which can simulate the look/handle.

Why Project Data for 'Weaving Futures?'

Intangible data defines modern transport in London, from knowing when trains will arrive to keeping the buses at regular intervals, all fed to through screens in our homes, offices, on the street and even in our hands. But does this mean that our contact with the world is ever more reduced to the visual, leaving the other senses to play second fiddle?

While data is undeniably becoming ever more important, how can this intangible presence be brought into our physical world in a more human scale way, and equally, how can our physical world generate more data to be used again?

The Project Brief

To explore the role of textiles in modern transport now, and potentially for the future focusing on 'untapped' sources of data generated by or helpful to the transport system.

Responses for this project can be anything from future speculations on data capture and its textile use, varied approaches to visual interpretations of existing TfL data sets - through to new methods of digitising human interactions, or creating your own data from the transport system and visualising it. This can be manifest through approaches including drawing, photography/film/sound/markmaking/model making etc

Potential Inspiration and Approaches

Visual: using existing data from TfL finding ways of visualising it or creating your own 'data' i.e. from travelling around, going on a *dérive*, photographing/documenting what people are wearing.....your own observations or exploring aspects of travel in London, secret spaces, ghosts...soundscapes etc

Structural: engineering /future vehicle design/space management/seating/standing

Interactive: Ticketing, tracking, material investigation, non verbal communications, haptics

Societal/wellbeing: tackling transport issues i.e comfort/disability/passenger flow/ passenger experience/community engagement/the use of weave as discourse.

Woven jacquard introduction

The possibilities of digital woven textiles can include:

- photographic/abstract representations,
- 3D
- texture
- layers
- text/ text & image
- repeat pattern or picture
- Finishing (anything done to the cloth afterwards) i.e. felting, printing, pleating

or all of them and others...

This can be discussed with Philippa prior to and during the season, alongside Rosie & Hanna

Materials : Anything that will go on a bobbin, including fine wires, textures can be used in the weft

Data and other links

Data: ' Beautiful images make it much easier to access data and reveal things that people didn't previously know'

Jonathan Barnbrook

Data visualisation

David McCandless - Information is beautiful Book and website

<http://www.informationisbeautiful.net/>

<http://www.informationisbeautiful.net/visualizations/what-makes-a-good-data-visualization/>

Big Bang Data <http://bigbangdata.somersethouse.org.uk>

<http://bigbangdata.somersethouse.org.uk/using-data-as-an-art-material-in-we-need-us/>

TFL open data <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/open-data-users/>

Lisa Congdon <http://collectionaday.com>

Data Mining <http://datamining.typepad.com/gallery/blog-map-gallery.html>

Accept and Proceed. Ten years of Light

<http://shop.acceptandproceed.com/>

Light Calendars <http://shop.acceptandproceed.com/work/light-calendars-2/>

Dear Data <http://www.dear-data.com/theproject>

Mapping & Map making

London

<http://mappinglondon.co.uk>

<http://www.timeout.com/london/things-to-do/londons-hidden-gardens-and-green-spaces>

http://www.secret-london.co.uk/Secret_Gardens.html

A collaborative map in search of sustainable materials

<http://re-searcharts.tumblr.com>

Data Visualisation tools

<http://www.tableau.com/>

<https://www.sanddance.ms/>

Human/Computer experience

<http://hxd.research.microsoft.com/>

Informal Communication

Scent calendar : <https://davidherbert.me/tag/scent-calendar/>

Hand Gestures: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Speak-Italian-Fine-Art-Gesture/dp/0811847748>

Corporeal conformity: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asch_conformity_experiments

Dérive & Psychogeography

<http://www.cddc.vt.edu/sionline/si/theory.html>

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Psychogeography-Pocket-Essentials-Paperback-Coverley/dp/1842433474>

<http://www.e-flux.com/journal/10/61353/the-psychogeography-of-loose-associations/>

People

Bertolt Brecht: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bertolt_Brecht

Cildo Meireles: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cildo_Meireles

Francis Alys: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Al%C3%BFs

Anthony Dunne & Fiona Raby: <http://www.dunneandraby.co.uk/content/home>

Onkar Kular: <http://www.onkarkular.com/>

Noam Toran: <http://www.noamtoran.com/NT2009/>

Be Brave

Ornella Stocco: <http://cargocollective.com/ornellastocco/Get-Viral>

Sandra Fruebing: <http://sandra-fruebing.de/>