



Project: Haptic Memories

Date: 15/10/2018

Location: University for the Creative Arts

Designer: Ana Luiz-Wright

Description: "As part of my 3rd year Final Project Degree in Fashion and Textiles: Print, the aim of this Project was to research new materials that I could use and try techniques I've learnt over the years. Based on the haptic memories of my childhood in Brazil, this research was not only about the materials, but also how much I could explore my senses in the construction of the pieces, being tactility a fundamental part in this work."

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In October 2018, student Ana Luiz-Wright began experimenting with Concrete Canvas® (CC) GCCM*. Ana chose to use CC as her material of choice to create a portfolio of work for her Final Degree Project in Fashion and Textiles: Print at the University of Creative Arts in Rochester, UK.

Ana used approximately 4m² of the 5mm thick variant of CC (CC5™) to produce her final body of work. The aim of the project was to use CC as a tool to explore print and textures:

"Being passionate about textures, and eager to explore printing in a variety of surfaces Concrete Canvas was very appealing to me as it is a material that can be manipulated before being hardened, so I could explore the tactile and material side of it.

"The purpose of this project was to try to see if Concrete Canvas could be printed on to, be used for different purposes, as an art piece, wall and or floor tiles, a product to be used for interior or exterior designs in a small or large scale."

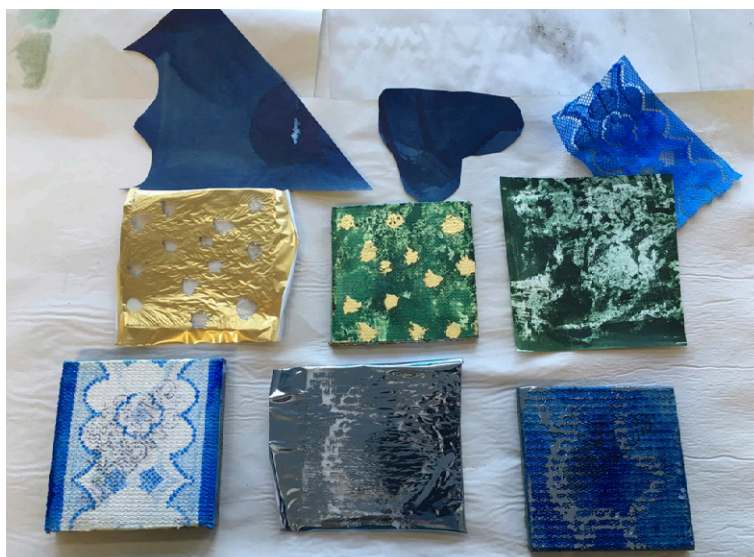
Ana began by experimenting with small samples, getting to know it's properties. As printing was the key component of this project, experiments of printing on the set material to establish how well it would respond to the process was the first step. On finding that CC would be suitable for the project, Ana ordered her first 2m² of CC5™ to carry out further experimentation.

"With manipulation of the material, I started to explore how I could work with the product in an innovative way," Ana explains.

She unwrapped the material and lay it flat on a table, cutting it into small tile-sized samples to make it easier to work and experiment with in the first instance. Ana used an industrial sewing machine to sew along the edges of the material in order to 'seal' it and prevent any loss of the cement mix while handling and manipulating the material. The CC was then hydrated using a hose pipe and left to set.

Once set, Ana began further experimentation with her tile samples and prepared them for a print process called Dye Sublimation. Sublimation is the change of state of a substance from a solid to a gas without first becoming liquid. Here Ana used disperse dyes on paper using a heat press to transfer the colours on to the concrete. She then used digital sublimation, which is a digital printing process in which full colour artwork was printed onto a sheet of high-release paper, and then transferred with the use of heat and pressure onto Concrete Canvas. Ana experimented with a number of printing techniques and then used what she'd learned about printing on the material to improve and develop her methods.

After seven months of experimentation, Ana found that for the best results, she had to ensure minimal manipulation of the material, use of smaller pieces and longer periods of hydration. She also found that more vibrant colours gave the biggest impact on the texture of the material.



Initial experimentations of printing on CC



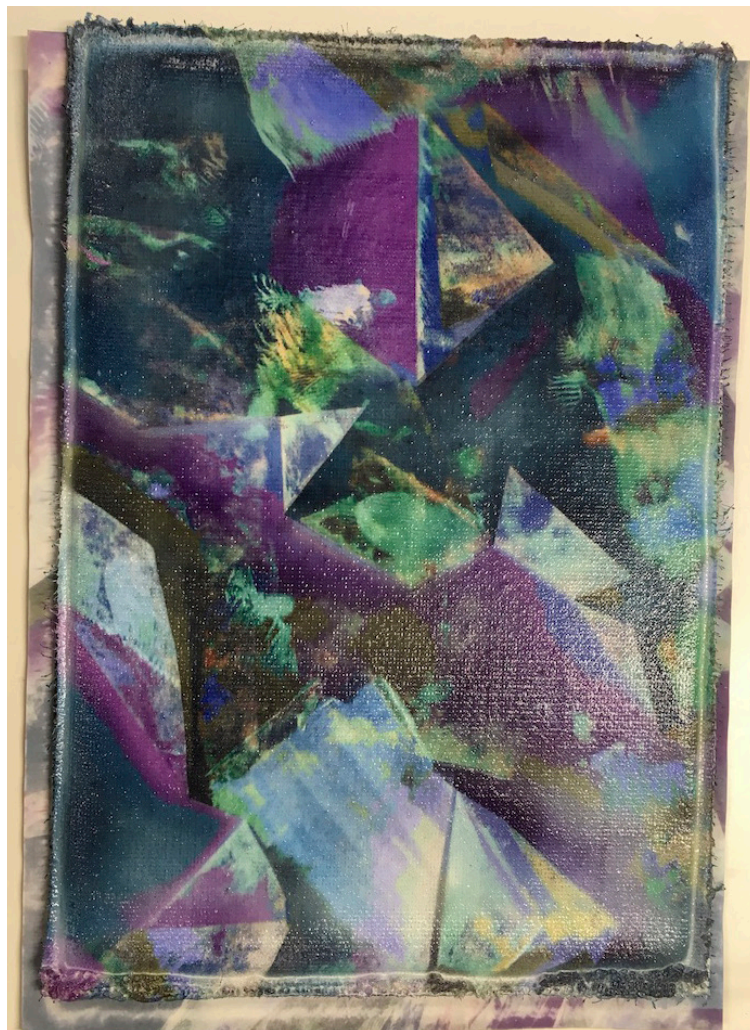
Further experimentation



Cutting CC to size



Sewing CC edges



Following her second stage of experimentation, Ana placed her second order for a further 2m² of CC5™, this time applying the techniques learned and results gained from her testing to the artwork she wanted to put forward for her Final Degree Project. Her preparation of the material was much the same for this stage as during experiments, however Ana this time chose to hydrate the material by submerging it fully in a tank of water for 24 hours. Once set, her print designs were transferred onto the Concrete Canvas®.

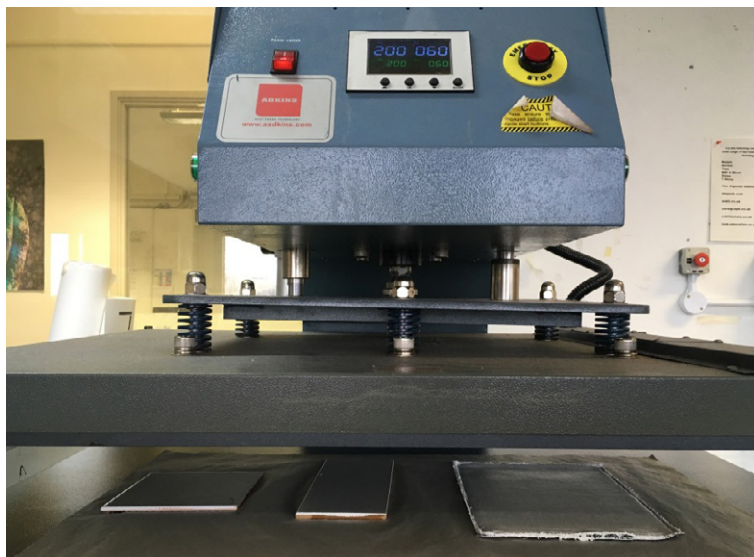
Since submitting her Final Project, with great support from the Fashion Textiles Technician Tutor, Simon Hayward, Ana was shortlisted for The Batsford Prize 2019 under the category of Applied Arts, and was awarded Runner Up in Spring 2019. She has also received a Commendation from The Bradford Textile Society's Design competition under the category of Applied Arts, sponsored by Clothworkers' Company, and will be showing her work at New Designers 2019, which will be hosted at London's Business Design Centre between 26th - 29th June 2019.

"I will definitely use CC again as I intend to keep researching new methods to create new products with this outstanding material... [CC] gives new opportunities, not just for the construction industry, but also to the artistic world."

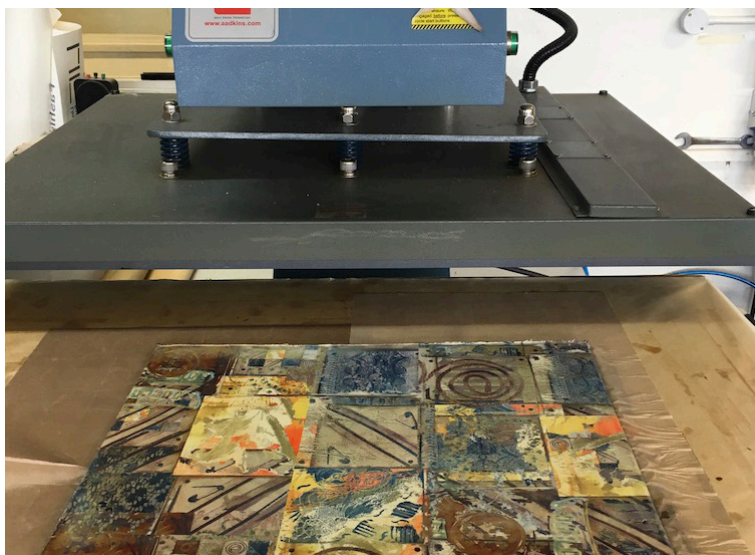
**Ana Luiz-Wright,
Designer and Creator of Haptic Memories**



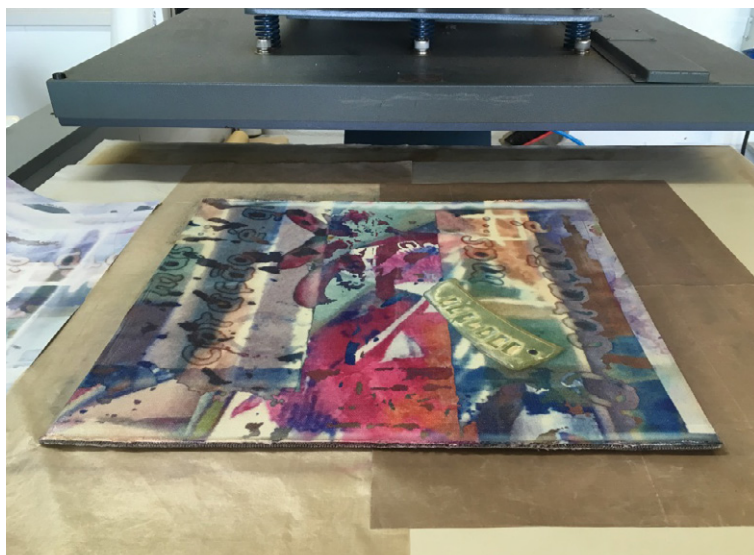
Hydrating CC



Machine used to print designs onto CC



Selection of first designs



Results of printing



Items from the final collection



Stunning results of printing