

LILY MCDONNELL

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PROFILE

I am a London-based Textile Artist and CMF designer with a background in woven design. In 2023, I graduated from the Royal College of Art with a 2-year Master's in textiles. My work explores the combination of soft textiles and natural earth pigments to create artworks that are rooted in locality and repurposing waste.

EXPERIENCE

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| Jan 2025 - Present
Aug 2022 - Oct 2023 | CMF DESIGNER, PRIESTMANGOODE | LONDON |
| As a CMF designer working in the transport sector, my role involves translating brand identities into aviation spaces. I have had the opportunity to work with major brands such as Riyadh Air, presenting weekly design updates, attending material development workshops, and overseeing a material and colour vision from ideation to manufacturing. The role requires excellent organisation, communication, and collaboration skills. I was taken on as a part-time intern in August 2022, which I worked alongside my studies at the RCA. After graduating, I returned as a designer. | | |
| Oct 2023 - Dec 2024 | DESIGN ASSISTANT, LRNCE | MARRAKECH |
| As a design and production assistant, I undertook a variety of roles, including textile sampling, natural dyeing, material sourcing, working with the production team to produce stock, liaising with suppliers, and creating design briefs for external producers. My naturally dyed fabrics, produced using spices, food waste, and raw materials sourced directly from Marrakech were applied to textile products at LRNCE. I also assisted with the organisation of stock, having implemented a new material organisation system for ordering woven fabrics, wool, and leather. | | |

EDUCATION

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| Sep 2021 - Jun 2023 | TEXTILES MA | ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART |
| Completed in June 2023.
My work at the RCA focused on developing natural dyeing techniques with unlikely materials and process-led design. | | |
| Sep 2018 — Jun 2021 | TEXTILES: INNOVATION AND DESIGN BA | LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY |
| Graduated with a First Class Honours. | | |
| Sep 2013 — Jul 2017 | A LEVELS AND GCSE'S | NORWICH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS |
| A-Level in Textiles (A*), Art (A*), and Economics (C).
9 GCSEs ranging from A* - B. Including Mathematics (A), English Language (A), and English Literature (A).
Awarded the Sixth Form Scholarship for Textile Design. | | |

VOLUNTEERING & EXTRA-CURRICULAR

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| May 2025 — Present | FASHION & TEXTILES VOLUNTEER | CORE ARTS |
| As a weekly volunteer at CoreArts I assist the tutors with running the Fashion & Textiles class, aiding students to reach their targets and develop their own sewing projects. | | |
| Oct 2022 — Jun 2023 | SUSTAINLAB COMMITTEE | ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART |
| SustainLab was a community and platform for Royal College of Art students to explore sustainability in their practice. I helped to run exhibitions, workshops, fundraising activities, and open-crit sessions. | | |
| Oct 2022 — Jun 2023 | SECONDARY SHOW COMMITTEE | ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART |
| The Secondary Show Committee was a group of students who supported the cohort running the RCA's work in progress and final show for 2023. I helped with social media posts, graphics, and general admin tasks. | | |
| Oct 2018 — Oct 2019 | HALL OF RESIDENCE STASH REPRESENTATIVE | LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY |
| Elected onto the Hazlerigg-Rutland Committee in 2018, my role as 'Stash Representative' was designing and sourcing hall merchandise. I also helped to arrange hall of residence activities, including social and fundraising events. | | |
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AWARDS

- Dec 2021 — Apr 2022 **WINNER, LIVE CMF PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PRIESTMANGOODE** ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART
- The brief explored healthy materials and processes. My project aimed to develop circular dyeing processes with waste metals, using iron oxide, copper patina, salt, and Seacell.
- Oct 2022 — Jun 2023 **RUNNER-UP, LONDON MAYOR'S SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AWARD** ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART
- Submitted to the Social Enterprise Award, Blue City was a team project that aimed to hypothetically combine aquaculture and agriculture technology to make accessible systems that bring cheap, fresh produce to urban communities.
- Oct 2018 — Oct 2019 **SHORT-LISTED, LIVE PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MILLIKEN** LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY
- The brief was to design a textile collection suitable for a high-end interior client. My project explored crystal healing and wellness for hotels, translating the concept into a collection of woven samples using ikat and dip-dyeing techniques.
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EXHIBITIONS

- Oct 2023 **MATERIAL MATTERS DESIGN FAIR X PRIESTMANGOODE** BARGEHOUSE, LONDON
- Showcasing the creativity shown by a selection of RCA students who took part in the PG X RCA programme.
- May 2023 **LEGACY BY SUSTAINLAB** HOCKNEY GALLERY, ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART
- A student-led exhibition centered around sustainability and our lasting legacy as designers.
- Feb 2023 **SURFACE DESIGN SHOW** BUSINESS DESIGN CENTRE, LONDON
- I was selected to exhibit as part of the annual curation of innovative materials.
- Feb 2023 **CLERKENWELL DESIGN WEEK** MODULYSS SHOWROOM, LONDON
- I was selected to exhibition as part of the Colour of Saying material exhibition, curated by Laura Perryman.
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COURSES

- Feb 2023 **WOOL SCHOOL** FERNHILL FARM, SOMERSET
- A four-day course that taught the basics of harvesting, prepping, and spinning raw sheep fleece.
- May 2023 **NATURAL DYEING WITH BRITISH WOOL** HIGHGROVE TRADITIONAL CRAFTS, DOUGHTON
- A two-day group natural dyeing workshop with Ria Burns looking at the colours that can be achieved through dyeing with responsibly foraged or home-grown plants and food waste.
- Feb 2023 **INTRODUCTION TO SLOW FASHION AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES** UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS LONDON
- The online short course was an introduction to slow, sustainable fashion. Learning the basics of ethical business models, slow fashion's unique selling points, and how to market slow fashion on social media.