

Life on the Outskirts: making sense of a creative life

LIFE ON THE
OUTSKIRTS



Photograph courtesy of Platon (1994) to mark 10 years in fashion. Helen Storey's Kensington and Chelsea Bin Bag Ball Skirt, from Present Times Collection Autumn/Winter 1993

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Life on the Outskirts: making sense of a creative life

A collaboration between the Helen Storey Foundation, the University of Leeds and Manchester Metropolitan University, funded by the AHRC.

AHRC Grant Ref: AH/P013368/1



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Background

Builds on previous work around archives in creative industries undertaken by Helen Storey Foundation (HSF), Kingston University London, and Manchester Metropolitan University.

NB: Existing relationships/prior networking before applying...

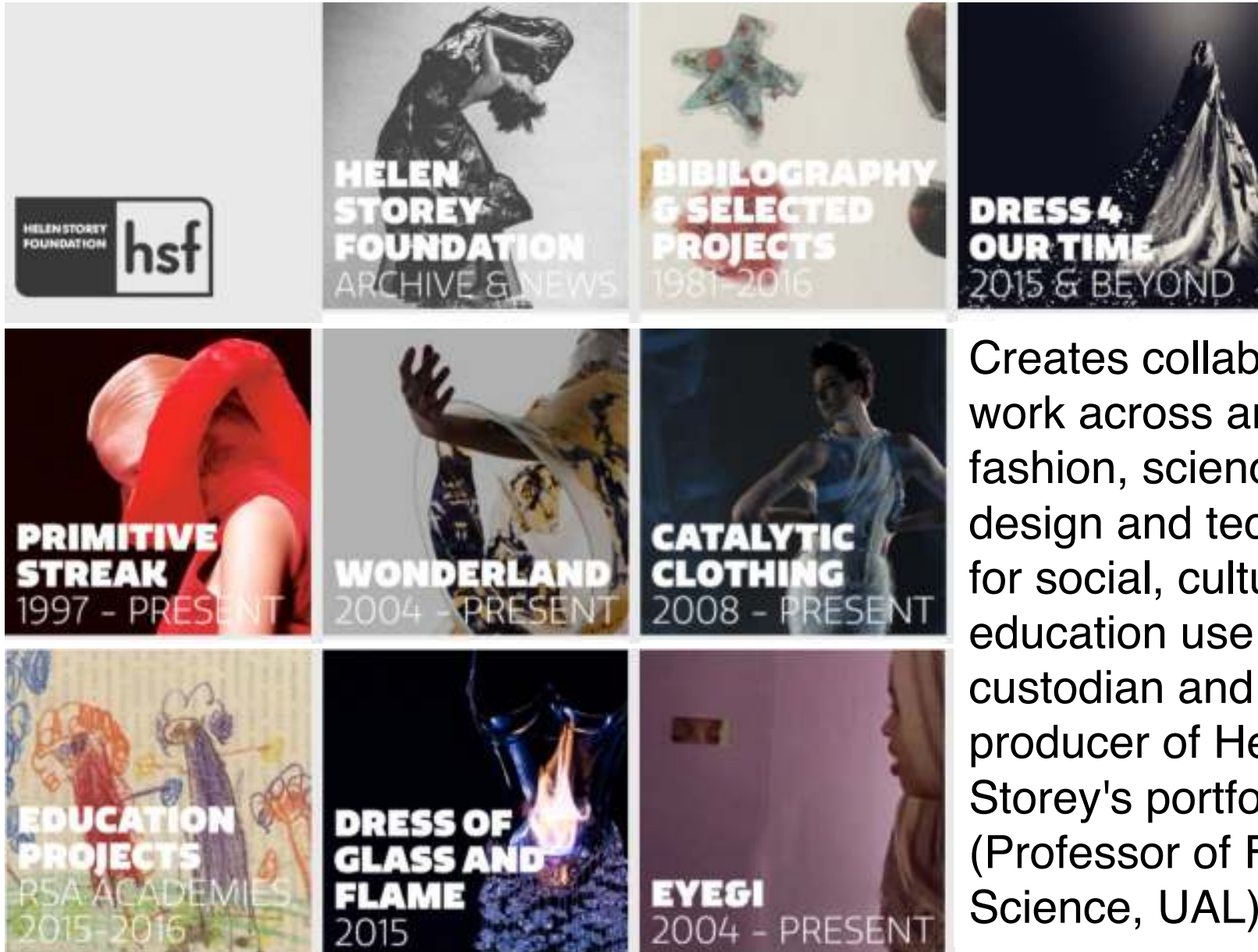
Previous Funding

- MA (2005-7): AHRC Research Preparation Masters Funding
- PhD (2007-11): AHRC Doctoral Funding
- ‘Analysing Artists’ Continual Professional Development in Greater Manchester’ (2012-13): funded by MIRIAD and Castlefield Gallery, supported by ACE and Manchester City Council.
- ‘Artists in Greater Manchester’ (2014), with Castlefield Gallery: AHRC Cultural Engagement Fund



Artists in Greater Manchester,
published by Castlefield Gallery, 2014

1999: Helen Storey Foundation (HSF) set up



Creates collaborative work across art, fashion, science, design and technology for social, cultural and education use. Also custodian and producer of Helen Storey's portfolio (Professor of Fashion Science, UAL).

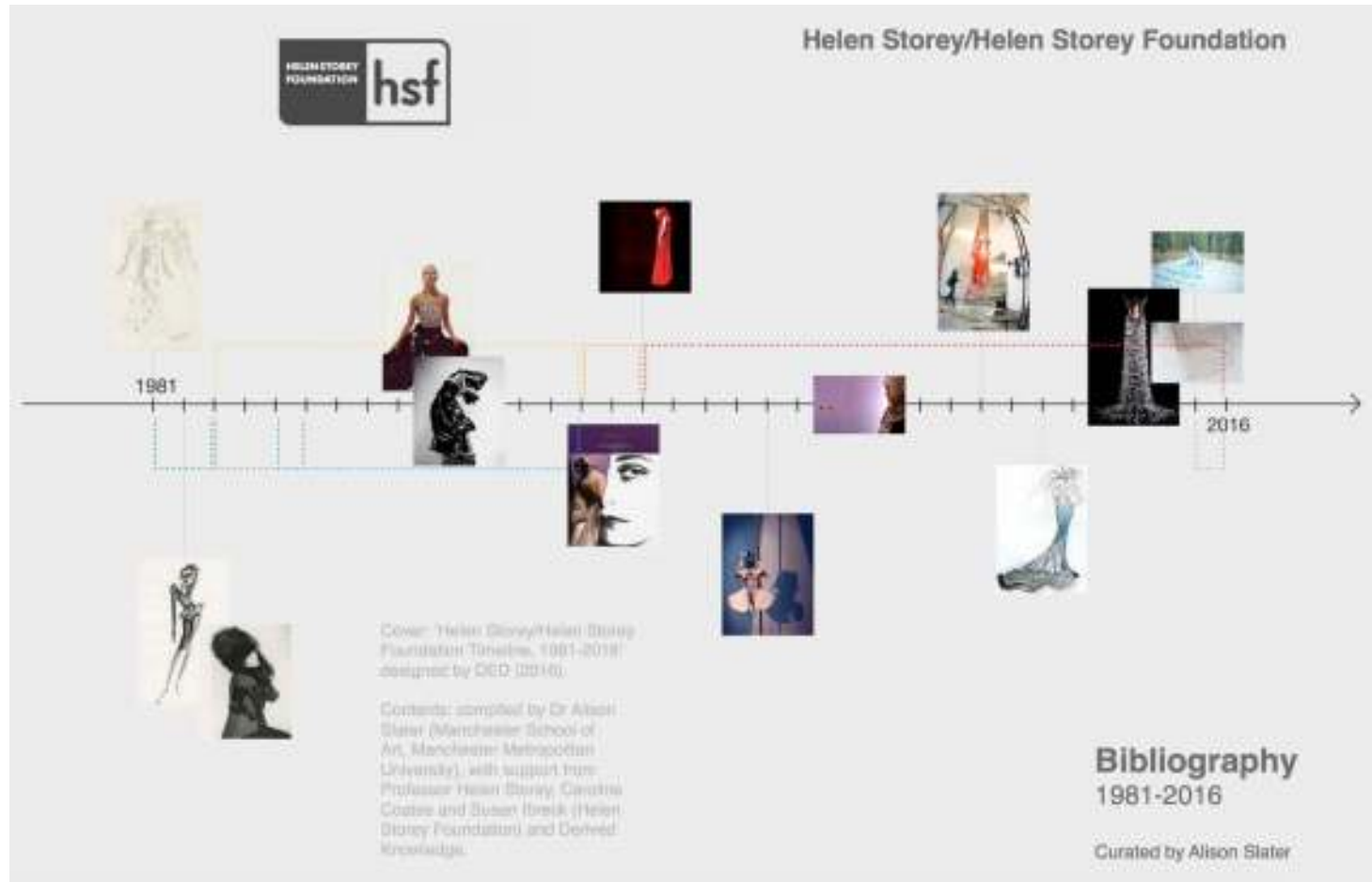
2015: Pilot Study

Rob Knifton (PI; then at Kingston – where Helen Storey graduated in 1981) worked with HSF to digitise their archive, funded by Creativeworks London. An exhibition of new photographs taken was also held.



2016: HSF Timeline and Bibliography

Rob introduced me to HSF and I produced a bibliography of their work to date, funded by Derived Knowledge (HSF work) and Manchester School of Art (my research time).



HSF Bibliography Cover, Summer 2016

October 2016:

I hosted a Q+A with Helen on 'Adversity as Creative Fuel' at MSoA as part of Design MCR.



Event Poster and Twitter Post on 'Adversity as Creative Fuel', 12 October 2016

Summer 2016:

We decided to collaborate on a larger bid to extend the HSF Archive work.

Spring 2017:

‘Life on the Outskirts’ awarded £103,599 fEC, Follow-on Funding for Impact and Engagement under Creative Economy Highlight notice (18 months)



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[HOME](#)

[FUNDING ▾](#)

[RESEARCH ▾](#)

[NEWS, EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS ▾](#)

[INNOVATION ▾](#)

[SKILLS ▾](#)

[PEER REVIEW ▾](#)

[ABOUT US ▾](#)

In this section

[> Funding Opportunities](#)

[Current Opportunities](#)

[Home](#) > [Funding](#) > [Funding Opportunities](#) > [Archived Opportunities](#)

> [Follow-on Funding for Impact and Engagement Scheme: Creative Economy Highlight Notice](#)

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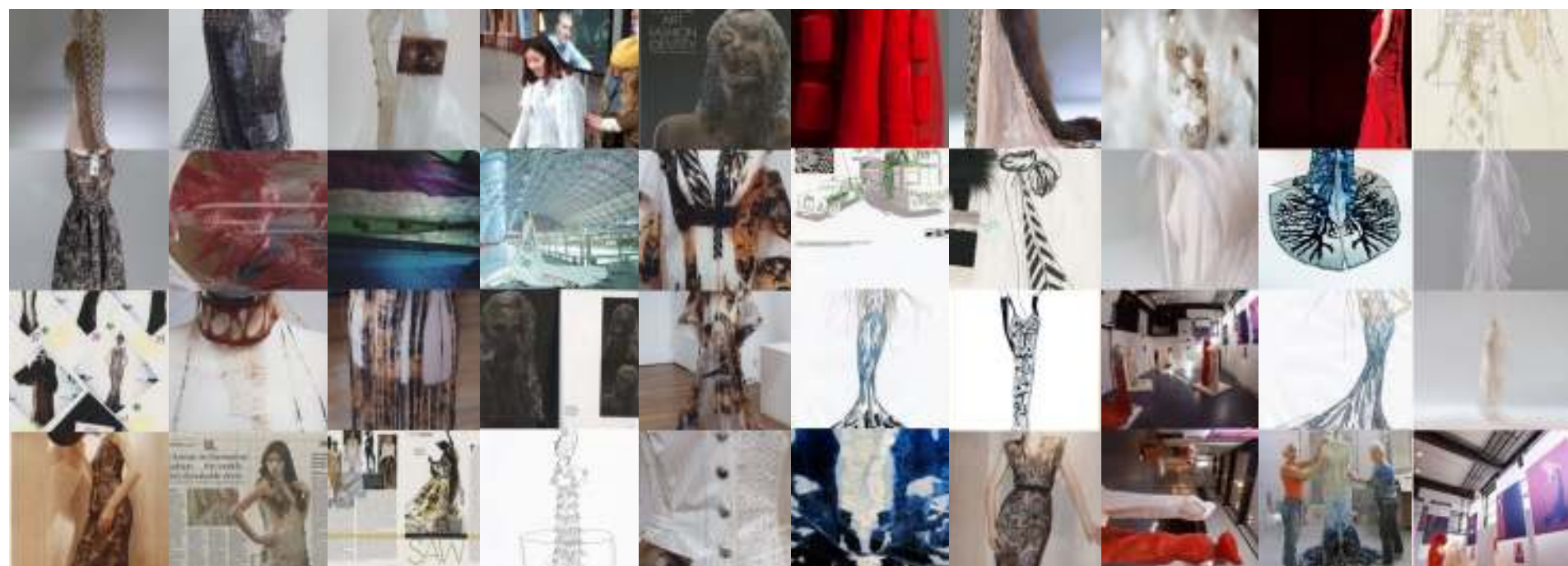
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- *NB: not an 'art' or 'design' or 'archives' notice!*
- *And thanks to Germaine for her help with the fEC!!*

Life on the Outskirts (March 2017 to July 2018)

The HSF Archive became a case study to address the research question:

- **How do SMEs use archives for public engagement, creative, commercial and pedagogic impact?**

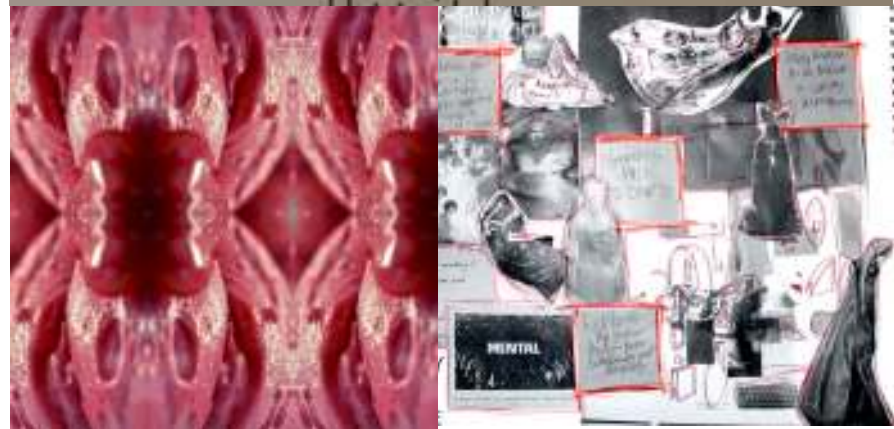
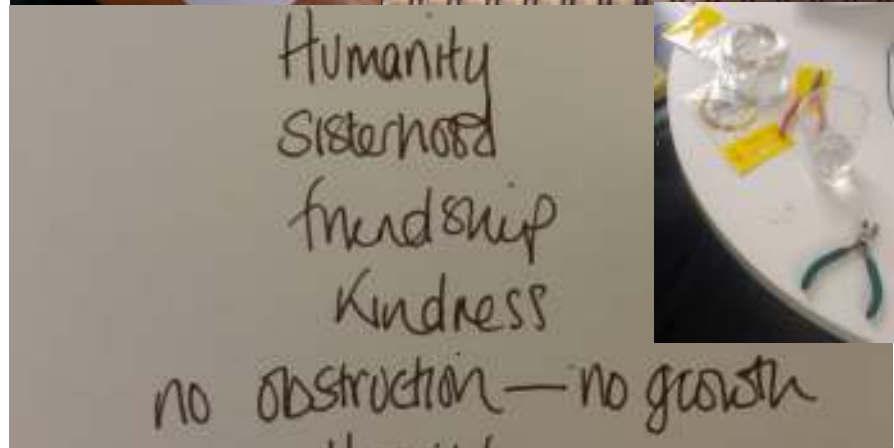


Life on the Outskirts Objectives

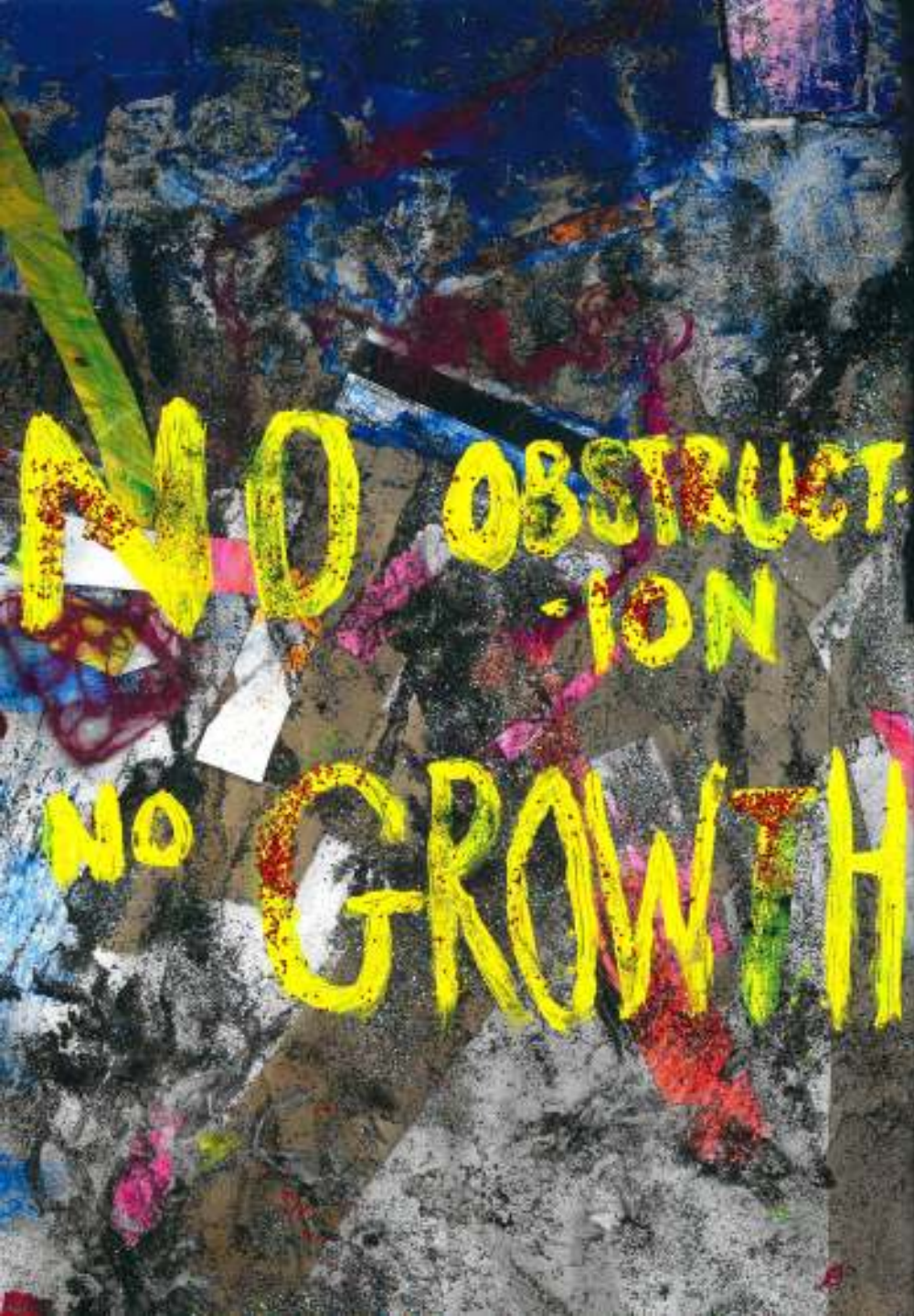
- Develop student, practitioner and public understanding of the role of archives in creative practice (as inspiration for new work and record of past creative practice).
- Safeguard collections for future research and public access by engaging with issues around digital collecting.
- Develop a research network symposium to share methods and knowledge exchange around mobilisation and archive use to a range of potential users across creative and cultural industries and academia.
- Construct a touring exhibition for universities highlighting archive practices for creative practitioners and SMEs, aimed at students of art and design courses.

Life on the Outskirts Activities

1. Student workshops, mentoring sessions and an exhibition at Manchester Met, Leeds, and Kingston Universities.
2. A project website including the digitised HSF Archive and updates from students involved.
3. A symposium to disseminate findings nationwide.
4. A Special Edition Journal on creative archives.



Student work responding to the Manchester and Leeds Workshops (by Mary, Natalie, Amanda, Claire, Faye, and Warren)



“I came away feeling very inspired and driven. What was particularly interesting about the archive was the comparison in reactions and aspects between ourselves as a group and Helen herself. Looking simplistically through timelines, information and exhibitions highlighted the contrasting growth of [Helen’s career] ... It put into perspective how life has its obstacles and that ... nothing is definite and I still have much more to develop and learn within my creative practice”.

Georgina, 2nd Year,
BA (Hons) Textiles in Practice, MSoA

Academic, economic and societal impact beneficiaries:

- Students in creative disciplines, especially whose work is 'born digital' and will soon be commencing careers in SMEs or establishing their own SMEs.
- HSF and other creative SMEs with archival holdings that are underdeveloped, underused, or at risk.
- Institutional archives wishing to engage with the creative SME sector.
- Academics using archives and archive-based pedagogies.
- Wider public audiences (through the public exhibitions in Leeds, Manchester and Kingston).

Long-term impact from Life on the Outskirts:

1. More artists, designers and creative SMEs building and valuing their own archives.
2. Increased and enhanced use of archival examples from creative SMEs in HE teaching.
3. Encouraging scrutiny of creative SME archival practice in future research.
4. Offering long-term solutions that strengthen the creative economy via archival practice and mobilisation.

Life on the Outskirts Symposium: inspiration and interventions in small creative archives



Manchester School of Art, Friday 9th February, 11am – 5.30pm

Attendance is free and lunch is provided! To book, email lotohsf@gmail.com

For more information, see:

www.lifeontheoutskirts.org

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About

Archive



Journal

Events

