



# Recycle, Reuse, Rethink!

## Workshop

### Information for Teachers

#### Introduction

'Recycle, Reuse, Rethink!' is a workshop session at the Quilt Museum and Gallery designed for Key Stage 3 & 4 students.

This hands-on workshop is designed to encourage discussion about key environmental, moral, cultural and social issues in the art world, inspire creativity and encourage students to use museum collections and exhibitions as a design resource for their work.

It focuses on the 6s – Recycle, Reuse, Reduce, Refuse, Repair and Re-think.

#### QCA/Curriculum links

Design and Technology Unit 07a	Understanding materials
Design and Technology Unit 07b	Designing and Making for Yourself
Design and Technology Unit 08a	Exploring Materials Focus
Design and Technology Unit 9a	Selecting Materials Focus: Textiles
Design and Technology Short Course (from 2009-) Unit A3572	Sustainable Design
Art and Design Unit 9B	Change your Style
Art & Design Edexcel/OCR	AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4
GNVQ Art & Design	Units 1-4

## Learning Objectives

- To explore quilting as a method of recycling and reusing a range of materials
- To investigate artistic and technological developments in using non-traditional, non-biodegradable materials in quilting and textile art
- To track historical and artistic development through real textile objects
- To be inspired by textile artists who have used recycling in their work
- To think about approaching design problems differently – e.g. using existing 'waste' products for another purpose without processing them
- To develop creative design ideas from studying and handling textiles
- To continue developing skills of discussion, negotiation and cooperation in a group
- To continue developing skills in sketching and planning for production

## Workshop

This workshop is suitable for up to 30 pupils and lasts approximately 1 hour 20 minutes.

The workshop begins with a presentation exploring quilting and textile arts through time, for utility, artistic and fashion purposes (10 minutes). This will focus on materials used, methods of production and technology used. Students will be encouraged to interact and ask questions about sustainability and alternative uses for materials.

The workshop facilitator will then take students up to see the current exhibition and give them a quick tour focusing on recycling and rethinking quilting to comment on environmental, moral and social issues (20 minutes). Here they will complete a short literacy activity generating some key emotional words they can use in a later activity.

Students will work in small groups to respond to a brief asking them to incorporate one 'waste' object from a mystery bag into the design of one of the textiles on display. Using the object and notes attached, they will have some time to sketch and annotate their ideas (15 minutes).

We will then return to the Education Room to have a closer look at some quilts - historic and contemporary – to explore re-use, recycling and any messages woven into the textiles (10 minutes). Working in small groups, the students will then design a contemporary textile encouraging people to recycle at home. This can incorporate key emotional words and designs generated earlier (20 minutes).

To close, students will feedback their design ideas to the group (5 minutes).

## **The Galleries**

Although we do offer a tour of the galleries as part of the workshop, you might like to book an independent gallery visit to further explore the collections on display.

The Heritage Gallery offers an exciting and ever-changing exhibition of quilts from the past whilst the Bailey Gallery offers the chance to see some contemporary quilts and learn how traditional quilting techniques and materials have developed.

Current Exhibition Trails and Teacher's Information Sheets (to KS3) are sent to all teachers who book an independent gallery visit.

## **Pre-visit activity suggestions**

- Research one contemporary textile work involving recycled materials – what influenced its maker, where was it produced, who made it, how did they make it?
- Explore how trends and innovations in design and manufacture have impacted on the environment.
- Find out as much as you can about quilting, patchwork and appliqué
- Examine the philosophy of 'Make Do and Mend' and the social reasons for its popularity
- Look at the Quilters Guild website and the Quilt Museum website for project ideas and information

## **Follow-up activities**

- Continue developing design ideas created during the workshop and work towards producing the textile.
- Make design resource books focusing on recycled textiles
- Produce a class exhibition of recycled textiles and ask a local public space like a library, museum or even the school/college if they will host it. Get students to think about how they can interpret their project for the public.
- Get students to work in pairs to re-imagine a current fashion trend by introduce recycled materials or quilting elements.

Your 'Recycle, Re-use, Re-think!' notes

