EPISODE NOTES – In Conversation with Atelier E.B.

These episode notes are designed to develop teaching and learning activities for a range of levels and courses. These are just suggestions; please do adapt for your own purposes.

Podcast information:
An international centre of design, V&A Dundee presents the brilliance of Scottish creativity and the best of design from around the world.

Our podcast shares highlights from our public programme, along with stories from our collections and insights from creative practitioners – join us to explore design from unexpected perspectives.

Episode Information:
This episode is a live event recording of In Conversation with Atelier E.B - a discussion between Beca Lipscombe and Lucy McKenzie, and fashion historian Mairi MacKenzie which took place at V&A Dundee in February 2020.

In this recording Beca and Lucy explore their collaborative practice as Atelier E.B and discuss their installation Faux Shop, which opened in the Michelin Design Gallery at V&A Dundee on the 7th of February 2020.

Speaker Biographies:
Atelier E.B is a label run by designer Beca Lipscombe and artist Lucy McKenzie, who have been showing and selling fashion in galleries since 2011. Based between Edinburgh and Brussels their work blends art, design and historical research.

Mairi MacKenzie is a fashion historian and Research Fellow in Fashion and Textiles at Glasgow School of Art. Her research explores the social history of perfume; the relationship between popular music and fashion; and the history of dressing up and going out in Glasgow.

About Atelier E.B’s Faux Shop installation at V&A Dundee:
Faux Shop focuses on the beautiful, yet seemingly unremarkable shop window displays of the 20th century. Filled with items from Atelier E.B’s fashion collection Jasperwear, the shop reveals how, when it comes to fashion display, even the unnoticed details of window-dressing deserve more serious contemplation.
Featuring a full-scale construction of a shop window, as well as an archive of material built on the particular tastes of Atelier E.B, Faux Shop asks the question: Is window dressing simply an everyday part of popular culture? Or is it a unique and often overlooked form of art and design practice?

Questions to Guide Listening:
- How did Beca and Lucy start Atelier E.B.?
- How do Beca and Lucy collaborate while living in different countries?
- What did Beca and Lucy do before they started Atelier E.B.?
- What are Beca and Lucy inspired by?
- What are the differences and similarities between Atelier E.B and conventional fashion shops and brands?

Learning Outcomes:
- To deepen understanding of design practice in our everyday lives.
- To consider different creative careers and professional routes within the creative industries.
- To explore and understand ways of working and designing collaboratively.
- To explore how artists and designers can share practice from different perspectives.
- To explore how artists and designers can choose to present their practice and engage with audiences.

Connections to Curriculum:
- I can respond to the work of artists and designers by discussing my thoughts and feelings. I can give and accept constructive comment on my own and others’ work. EXA 3-07a
- Through creating a range of reference material, I can demonstrate my skills of observing and recording and apply them to work in other areas of the curriculum. EXA 4-04a

Resources, Reading and Links:
- Information on Atelier E.B’s Faux Shop at V&A Dundee.
- Atelier E.B’s website is full of useful information, and further reading under the Texts section.
- The Inventors of Tradition was an exhibition, film screening, publication and a series of international touring showrooms conceived by Atelier E.B and Panel.
• **The Inventors of Tradition II**, was published by Koenig Books in 2016. In this book Atelier E.B and Panel explore Scotland’s recent cultural past, making new connection that brings together art, architecture, design and sub-cultural identities, to examine how style can function as part of a broader discourse.

• Steven Campbell Annual Lecture 2019 ‘**Dressing above your station**’ took place at CCA in Glasgow. In this lecture, Beca Lipscombe and Mairi MacKenzie look at the life and work of Steven Campbell and consider what it means to dress for the life you want rather than dress for the life you have.

• Atelier E.B. [video interview](#) for their 2018 exhibition ‘Passer-by’ at the Serpentine Galleries.

• The book **Passer-by** was published to accompany the 2018 exhibition at the Serpentine Galleries of the same name.

• Atelier E.B’s 2019 ‘Passer-by’ exhibition at **Lafayette Anticipations**.

• Kat Herriman explores Atelier E.B’s practice in an [article for Cultured Magazine](#).

• **Social Fabric** is a Q&A with Atelier E.B’s Beca Lipscombe and Lucy McKenzie, with Laura Gardner published on Flash Art Online in 2017.

• Lucy McKenzie discusses her project ‘Villa De Ooievaar’ with Marie Canet in [Mousse Magazine](#).

• Interview with Lucy McKenzie discussing her art practice for [TateShots](#).

• Lucy McKenzie’s ‘**Art and the Interior**’ talk at Ben Kelly’s 2015 **Interior Design: Dead or Alive symposium** at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London.

• Mairi MacKenzie’s article ‘**Football, fashion and unpopular culture: David Bowie’s influence on Liverpool Football Club casuals 1976-79**’.

**Exhibition Glossary:**

**C_l_e_o_’s** is Atelier E.B’s digital app. Independent of social media and online data-gathering, it is a social space that recognises that clothes are and always have been a connective force. Cleo’s acts Atelier E.B’s show-window, a creative space to present their ideas and to be directly connected and responsive to their customers and a network of collaborators. Customers can share images of their outfits within their personal everyday contexts and use the app as a platform to share their own work.

**Howard Tong** (b. 1954, Blackpool, UK) is a London-based designer with a background in performance art, having studied with Lindsay Kemp and performed in groups such as Ting and Theatre of Mistakes. Aside Tong’s origins in performance he has worked for leather goods brand Mulberry and department store Harvey Nichols. In 2005, he founded KSHT, a design agency which focused on producing shop fittings, as well as exhibition design and display fixtures. Tong has contributed, alongside Barbara Kelly, to
Atelier E.B’s _Faux Shop_ – dressing its trompe l’oeil display using traditional window trimming techniques with items from their own personal collections.

**Barbara Kelly** (b. 1961, London, UK) is a window dresser living in London. Kelly studied in the late 1970s at the College for the Distributive Trades, the only school at that time in London offering training in window dressing. She has worked for Austin Reed, Selfridges, Harvey Nichols and Thomas Pink, employing the traditional techniques that have defined the trade throughout the twentieth century. Together with Tong she continues to dress the _Faux Shop_ for Atelier E.B.

**Goldbergs** was a department store founded in 1908 by Bill Goldberg in the Gorbals, Glasgow. Goldbergs moved to Candleriggs, Glasgow in 1920 and built the flagship department store, focusing on high-end products and fashion. Building upon the success of this first store a second location was added; Goldbergs in Tollcross Edinburgh, which opened in 1963. This second location had six escalators to its five floors, as well as a restaurant and two roof gardens. The building was designed with several bespoke elements including stained glass windows by artist John Lawrie and a castle-facing garden stocked with an aviary of exotic birds. Goldbergs said of itself in 1963 that it was ‘Edinburgh’s newest and most luxurious department store’. It carried a range of mid-priced luxury brands such as Ballantyne sportswear, Bally, Clarks shoes, Dunlop, Lee Jeans, Romika, Helena Rubenstein, Lanvin, Vanderbilt, Singer, Olivetti and Axminster carpets.

Between 1970 -1974 Goldbergs expanded further with stores located in; Falkirk, Ayr, Paisley, Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, Airdrie, Motherwell, Kilmarnock, East Kilbride. In 1979 an additional flagship store was purpose-built in Blackpool. In the late 1970s and early 1980s Goldbergs became a broader retail empire, creating its own youth-focused fashion brand Wrygges and Wrygges Man, as well as buying majority stakes in high-street staples Ted Baker and Schuh. In 1990 Goldbergs went into receivership and ceased trading. Both original Goldbergs stores in Edinburgh and Glasgow have since been demolished.

**Graham Little** (b.1972, Dundee, UK) is an artist who uses gouache paint and paper to create intriguing paintings which take their inspiration from historical and modern fashion advertisements. Sourcing his images from iconic fashion magazines such as _Vogue_ and _Harper’s Bazaar_, his work combines elements from the past and present to create enigmatic and ambiguous scenes, which reference a recognisable set of 20th century fashion and decor choices.
John Collier was a British chain of fashion retailers selling men’s suits and casual clothing. Founded in Leeds in 1907 by Henry Price, the chain expanded to over 399 stores across the United Kingdom, most of which traded under the Fifty Shilling Tailors brand. In 1958, the company was sold and renamed John Collier. The retailer was known for its incredible window displays and its advertising tagline - John Collier - The Window to Watch. The window display in the photograph was a concept developed by head of interpretive displays Roger Ellyard around 1980, for the spring-summer season. His starting point for the display was a tongue in cheek reference to Fruit Pastilles and an idea of pastels for spring. In 1985 John Collier was sold on to the Burton Group, with the menswear brand having already been discontinued in 1983.

Rita Rusk (b.1947, Castlemilk, Glasgow, UK) is a hairdresser and the only woman to be inducted into the Worshipful Company of Barbers in its 400 year history. Rita founded Irvine Rusk Hair Salon with her then husband Irvine Rusk, opening their first salon in Hamilton in 1976, followed by further stores in East Kilbride and Clarkston. Their iconic West Nile Street salon in Glasgow opened in 1980. A mecca to modernism and 1980s trends and sensibilities, the interior was co-created by the Rusks and interior designer Peter Julian. The Rusks bought the bust Pagliaccio (1978) from sculptor John Buckley in 1980. The sculpture was the focal point in the West Nile Street salons window and was a well-known window display to the shoppers of Glasgow. Rita bought Irvine out of the partnership in 1997 and renamed the salons Rita Rusk.

John Buckley (b. 1945, Leeds) is an English sculptor whose best-known work is the sculpture Untitled 1986, often referred to as the Shark House or The Headington Shark in Headington, a suburb of Oxford. The Pagliaccio sculpture, made in 1978 and originally displayed in Rusk’s salon window, was badly damaged during an orange walk in Glasgow in 2000. Rita Rusk had the sculpture repaired by Buckley. It was then subsequently auctioned and bought by Kenneth Edwards, who reinstated it in his own hairdressing salon window in Paisley, where the Pagliaccio sculpture resides today.