faye alexandra morgan designermaker portfolio and CV

about me

I am a designer maker currently in my Third Year of studying 3D Design at the University of Plymouth as a Bachelor of Arts degree. I have experience in many mediums; however, I chose the material of clay, due to my design aesthetic of creating art with a function rather than prioritizing function over looks or vice versa.

faye morgan



experience

Through experimentation with a wide variety of mediums, I have discovered an interest in Ceramics, Plastics and Wood. However, my specialist area lays within Ceramics, with skills such as Hand Building, Throwing and Slip-Casting. I also have a fascination with glazes, whether it be brush on, or applied in the spray booth. I also have experience in creating my own glaze using raw materials.

current project and interests

My current project focuses on my past with growing up in the Middle East. I have a major interest in Islamic and Arabic design and have written a Dissertation on the impacts of Westernisation and Globalisation on the design footprint within these cultures. My final major uses traditional Arabic design with a modern twist in an attempt to reintroduce a sense of community within the UK through a traditional Arabic socializing vessel know as the Shisha. The shisha is a smoking device used by Arabic people at social events to create a relaxed atmosphere. I intend to use this as the vessel through which people feel comfortable to reconnect and communicate with one another after the Pandemic, and the use of my memories will hopefully prompt people and create a safe environment for others to share their stories.

bubble cups

I created a set of 'bubble cups' as a response to a brief of making a dinnerware set that correlated to the words 'cold drink.' I responded by narrowing this down to fizzy drinks and created cups and a pitcher that mimicked the bubbles found in these drinks. I threw 6 cups and one larger pitcher, and created a set of blue kitchenware appliances. I decided to use a new method of glazing in which you add liquid soap into the glaze mixture, blow bubbles through a straw and then print them onto the exterior of the cups. This created a unique pattern which made all cups individual, however allowed them to be cohesive enough to create a whole set. It also allowed me to create a unique shape on the wheel, and quickly learn how to trim them accordingly.



"buoy 'o' buoy"

I was given the opportunity to work with the RNLI to create a vessel to trigger customers to think about coastal safety. I made 3 models of these mugs out of a bauble and cardboard, allowing me to strengthen my skills in model making while still achieving the brief. These mugs stated warnings such as 'where is the lifeguard?' in order to subconsciously drill water safety questions into everyday life, reminding civilians to keep safe and be aware of the dangers that may arise when visiting coastal areas. The idea behind these mugs was to donate them to coastal cafes, as well as to sell them as souvenirs to spread awareness for the RNLI and to raising money for this lifesaving charity. During this project, Covid 19 had closed all indoor venues, therefore I as a creative had to adapt to creating this project at home with the tools I had. This enabled me to work on my model making skills, in order to have a visual to present to the RNLI, but it also allowed me to work with a Dremel, baubles and cardboard in order to achieve.







creative repair

This project was an exploration of wax and how it can be used in aesthetic pieces. I created a mirror that used crayons as a repair agent in a way to approach kintsugi. I also used this project to collaborate with Olivia Harrington and Sam Turner to create jewellery that integrated how crayons reacted to the heat of epoxy, as well as segments of wood to create wearable jewellery. I created this project in a response to fix a broken item and make it into a new innovative design. I was eager to work with wax and glass as it is a rare combination, and I was curious to see the final outcome. The outcome created a piece that made a generic mirror into an art piece.



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coastal

I was challenged to create an item that would be batch produced in order to create a profit as well as start a project that can be continued in the future to create a steady income when starting up as a freelance designer. I created a 'coastal cup' that was slip casted in order to cut down production time and allow for using complex glazes to elevate the simple form to increase interest from customers. These were entered into a pop up shop which challenged me to figure out how to price objects in order to create a profit.



These are some recycled HDPE earrings I created.

I was challenged to explore 4 words and create a final product out of that. I chose, upcycle, waste, mold and function. I then decided on creating earrings using upcycled plastics melted in silicone molds and then adding melted bottle caps and hardware in order to create wearable art. For an item labelled as waste it made for the perfect material that made a beautiful marbled appearance which I decided would make a great piece of jewellery.





further exploration

Upon creating the HDPE earrings, I discovered that the melting bottle caps always reacted differently based on their colour. I discovered that the orange lids always melted in a way that left a central void, leading me to create necklaces out of these as the form was interesting, and I liked how the 'please recycle me' text melted around the void and was still readable.

tactile tent

I was given the chance to work with Architecture students for an installation at 'Illuminate.' it was a project that required us to work with children to create a sensory play vessel within the festival. This project was interesting as it built teamwork skills as well as skills that allowed us to voice out specialist opinion to create the best experience for children while using recycled materials. As designer makers we were tasked with building a solid frame to be weatherproof while also allowing aesthetic ornaments and attachments to be used. We built the frame entirely by hand as opposed to using power tools as this would ruin the idea of reducing waste.





ceramic explorations

I explored hand building plates in order to create a plaque/wall hanging piece that doubled as a trinket dish. This project was done to push my illustration/sculpture skills to create a face. This project not only strengthened my building skills, but it also allowed me to focus on tools I had not yet worked with, such as the needle tool as a detailer, as well as the silicone tipped tools that enabled me to smooth out the joins to create a more professional outcome.



This was another way in which I altered a simple form into a more complex product. This was a slip casted cup in which I used the skills I gained from the plate previously, and applied it to a functional object. I also used a hole cutter tool to create voids in which this item can be used as a candle holder that mimics the moon.

This also allowed me to explore how different sized or shaped voids could interact with light differently, dispersing the rays in different ways. This is an element I want to explore using a large piece in the future.

This was a personal project I did in which I slip casted the same form but altered and deformed them to discover how glazes would react in different ways. The crumpled cup pooled glaze into the divots leaving interesting and contrasting hues, it also made the microcrystals clump together, creating an almost weathered effect. The white vase with sharper sides allowed the microcrystals to melt downwards leaving an interesting feathered effect.

This allowed me to note elements of each glaze effect that I liked, and to keep track for future reference, as these effects suit my desired aesthetic and I am glad I experimented and have them for reference.



'safely grip mugs'

Arthritis mugs. I designed and threw mugs that would enable users with dexterity problems to use mugs more easily, without having to scrunch their hands around a small handle, but using the curvature of the mug to ergonomically form fit to the palm of their hand to create a safer, more comfortable grip on mugs. This also doubled as a hand warmer that could aid arthritis sufferers with poor circulation during colder months. This project allowed me to work closely with a specific group of people, pushing me to accurately design a product that would not only function, but one that would aid in the comfort of the users at hand.

These mugs were thrown on the wheel, with hand sculpted finger grips and thumb tabs.





Culture Stack

I have created a set of shishas inspired by my childhood to bond people together as they converse and reminisce about their different backgrounds whilst partaking in a social pastime. I decided to hand build the full set using 'beads' that can be interchanged to create an everchanging conversation starter to reintroduce the idea of socializing after the Covid 19 pandemic. I chose to make a shisha as it is a well know socializing vessel amongst many middle eastern and asian cultures which lent itself well to my middle eastern upbringing, thus allowing me to share my stories, having a knock on effect and inspiring people to engage and share their own. I decided to hand build the entire piece to increase my personal input and make it more emotionally connected to myself, also lending itself to my childhood memories of playing with playdough. I decided to keep the sandy colour of the raku clay as this reminded me of the sand dunes within Kuwait, as well as the sand castles I used to create at the beach when I was younger.

contact details



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