Student news

Scholarship launches RMIT fashion grad on world stage

RMIT University fashion graduate Natasha Fagg will launch her design career on the global stage after being awarded a prestigious Australian Fashion Foundation scholarship.

Ms Fagg was the joint winner of the 2012-13 AUSFF scholarship, receiving $20,000 and a six-month internship in the United States or Europe.

She follows in the footsteps of RMIT alumni Georgia Lazzaro (2010) and Laura Wade (2011) as the third RMIT Bachelor of Design (Fashion) Graduate to win an international internship and scholarship from the AUSFF, formerly known as the Australians in New York Fashion Foundation.

Ms Fagg and co-winner, Perth-based menswear designer Tim Watson, were hailed as the “future of Australian fashion” by AUSFF co-founder, Malcolm Carfrae.

"Their submissions showed expert use of technology, design skill and innovation," Mr Carfrae said. "The garments showed a unique perspective - we had seen nothing like them."

Keith Cowlishaw, Head of the School of Fashion and Textiles, congratulated Ms Fagg on her outstanding achievement. "It is recognition of her fashion design capability and also reflects the growing presence of Australians and Australian design on the global stage," Mr Cowlishaw said. "RMIT Fashion and Textiles continues to be at the forefront of global fashion education."

Ms Fagg is currently deciding on the location for her internship and is in discussion with fashion houses in Europe and New York.

"This incredible opportunity sponsored by Woolmark has not only opened the door for me to intern internationally, but has allowed me to present my work to some of the leading Australians in the fashion industry," she said. "The accessibility and encouragement towards innovative design at RMIT, paired with supportive and knowledgeable lecturers, has enabled me to explore new possibilities for the use of technology within fashion."

The 2012/13 winners were revealed at a glittering event held in Sydney, in which the foundation also announced it was expanding its operations to Europe and rebranding from the Australians in New York Fashion Foundation to the Australian Fashion Foundation, thanks to sponsorship from the Woolmark Company.

Judges present on the night included AUSFF founder, Malcolm Carfrae, Executive Vice-President of Global Communications at Calvin Klein Inc; Conde Nast Asia's Nancy Pilcher; Vogue Australia Fashion Director, Jill Davison; fashion designer, Dion Lee; blogger and stylist, Romy Frydman; myTheresa.com's Anthony Kendall; and the Woolmark Company's Kara Hurry.

Ms Fagg’s designs were praised as “the future of Australian fashion”. Her graduate collection explored new possibilities for the use of technology in fashion.
Three talented RMIT University textile design students could see their original homeware designs go into production after a successful collaboration with major Australian homewares manufacturer Ladelle.

The industry project challenged students from the Bachelor of Arts (Textile Design) to work to a commercial brief, researching and devising innovative new products, and designing a range of contemporary homewares including aprons and kitchen accessories.

Claire Beale, lecturer in Textile Design in the School of Fashion and Textiles, said the students' approach to the project began with hand-generated design work.

"The students used traditional mark making and drawing techniques on a range of media and materials," Ms Beale said. "They then translated their work into computer aided textile design programs Photoshop and Illustrator to produce the final designs. This process means the highly skilled and unique individual mark and handwriting is retained, which is often what differentiates textile designs from graphic designs."

Kate Tuckett's winning design, Oriental Orimono, used the popular Oriental theme. "It was such a brilliant process, working with the Ladelle team," Ms Tuckett said. "I wanted my designs to bring something new to enhance Ladelle's established identity, while remaining on brand."

Ladelle CEO James Gadsden said he was impressed with the high standard of student work and how well the students understood the brief, the global market and the Ladelle style.

"This is the second year of the project with RMIT and the high standard of work continues to impress," Mr Gadsden said. "Kate's yardage designs are extremely commercial and her work expresses a beautiful flow throughout the entire collection."

The scholarship will help Ms Fagg launch her designs on the world stage.
Second prize winner Meaghan McLeish’s *Yes Chef* is aimed at the aspiring Masterchef, while highly commended Laura Dougherty’s *Modern Simplicity* collection was considered to have great commercial design potential.

Ms Lynas said Ms Hearne cleverly worked the motif into geometric patterns incorporating the colours of the French revolution.

Student Liz Workman said she really enjoyed working alongside the Linen House designers and appreciated their support and feedback.

For more information contact Claire Beale, Lecturer BA Textile Design Program, claire.beale@rmit.edu.au

**RMIT & Linen House ongoing collaboration**

Three RMIT University students have won awards from textiles and homewares firm Linen House, which has been working with the University for nine years. The awards could help see their bed linen designs go into production.

The Bachelor of Arts (Textile Design) students, from the School of Fashion and Textiles, worked on a commercial brief from the company which paid homage to the recent Napoleon: Revolution to Empire exhibition at Melbourne’s National Gallery of Victoria.

Emma Lynas, Lecturer in Textile Design, said the students’ enthusiastic research and interpretation of the “quietly grand” theme resulted in a diverse mix of classic and contemporary stories for bed linen.

"First and second prize winners, Alana Costanzo and Liz Workman, referenced traditional motifs and trailing repeat systems to create a more classic, feminine story for the brand," Ms Lynas said.

Sarah Hearne received the highly commended award after drawing inspiration from Napoleon's iconic hat that symbolised the man and the era.

"My greatest challenge was developing a Napoleonic concept and theme that fitted the Linen House brand. The project was a brilliant journey and I got a great result," she said.

Linen House designers, Emily Treganowan and Liz McCracken, mentored the emerging designers and said that the winning designs were of an exceptionally high standard that offered very commercial outcomes.

Ms Treganowan said Alana Costanzo's work was beautiful, very sophisticated, delicate and professional.

"I would expect this standard from an accomplished textile designer," she said.

While Liz McCracken said Sarah Hearne's designs showed a very commercial outcome that could easily be translated into a Linen House design.
For more information contact Patrick Snelling, Program Director Textile Design, patrick.snelling@rmit.edu.au

Looking for design fun and a creative challenge in 2013?

There are limited places still available in:

* Certificate IV and Diploma of Textile Design and Development
and
* Certificate IV in Footwear

Classes are held at RMIT's Brunswick campus.

These practical, hands-on, studio based programs give you access to state of the art facilities to undertake your studies. You will develop your colour, drawing, design and computer skills to plan, develop and produce textiles and footwear for a variety of applications.

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Contact: Julia Raath on 03 9925 9201 or julia.raath@rmit.edu.au

* Certificate IV in Footwear
Contact: Mandy Penton on 03 9925 9202 or mandy.penton@rmit.edu.au

Staff News

RMIT University Research Excellence - Leadership Award

The RMIT University Research Excellence – Leadership Award recognises an RMIT academic who has demonstrated excellent practice in research leadership during the preceding five years.

This leadership excellence is demonstrated through team building, mentoring, participation in governance and the achievement of research team outcomes including co-publishing, international collaborations, generation of research income, development of postdoctoral researchers and supervision of Higher Degrees by Research (HDR) candidates.

This year the joint recipients from the College of Design and Social Context were-

Dr Rajiv Padhye
School of Fashion and Textiles

Dr Olga Troyinkov
School of Fashion and Textiles

Mr Keith Cowlishaw
School of Fashion and Textiles

Left to right: Keith Cowlishaw, Rajiv Padhye, Olga Troyinkov

“The research leadership over the last five years has contributed to substantial growth in the School's research performance across research income, publications and research activity”.

www.rmit.edu.au/fashiontextiles

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