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Fashion Design Process

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FASHION DESIGN PROCESS

Denise Sprynskyj

SIX is a fashion design practice created by Dr Denise Sprynskyj and Dr Peter Boyd.

Every collection or project that we have undertaken begins with an investigation into materiality, surface treatments, tailored archetypes and the visual and aural use of both French decorative interiors and the French language.

We use found garments as a way to discover making techniques that may no longer exist, and we recut and reconfigure these tailored archetypes using a technique we call excavation. We cut away the surfaces of the tailored garments to expose the layers beneath, and rearrange both the materials that compose it and the elements that give it form.

This approach of exposing the underlying construction techniques and tailored forms has led to our practice being given the label 'deconstructionist.'

Our community of practice includes the Japanese practitioners who use unusual form making or surface embellishment and material manipulation. In particular, Comme des Garçons and Issey Miyake have been a source of inspiration. Their ability to interrogate the use of materials and bring techniques across from other industries into fashion is masterful. The Belgian designer Martin Margiela is also important for his critical approach to design and print, especially his trompe l'oeil effects. Margiela's undoing and reworking of tailoring, bringing inner details to the surface of his jackets and creating, for example, the cigarette shoulder, have been influential on our design process.



Completing two parallel PhDs at RMIT in the invitational stream for established practices refined the research for our projects. Writing became a part of the design process, and developing short, scripted passages to describe the projects added another layer to our design thinking. French language – particularly our semi-deliberate misuse and mispronunciation, which symbolise our real and imagined distance from European design – has now become embedded in our research process.



The imagined physical environment and mental space this creates assist us to design, and this is something we were able to articulate through our PhDs. Reflecting on what it is that we need to do in order to design, it became apparent that, after many trips to Paris, Paris and the veneer of French culture we have acquired influence us – something that we reference literally through our reference to French interiors and, in particular, by using the superficial depth of wallpaper that reproduces these historical interiors.

This interest in the possibilities of flat surfaces has also led us to designing three-dimensional garments using national flags and constructing form using the simple quadrant of cloth.

Peter and I collaborate on everything together. It has been an ongoing collaboration. From the beginning.

In 2018 we began to work with Jirra Models, a First Nations modelling agency who support people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds and assist them to gain work in the fashion industry. We continue to work with Perina Drummond and her team and have built up a relationship of mutual trust and understanding. Many of the talent have come from remote parts of Australia and are not accustomed to working and living away from their communities. Their agency operates like a family.

In 2022 we funded an exhibition for indigenous artist Clinton Hayden, offering Clinton the opportunity to show their artefacts and textiles in our retail salon.

Collaboration in fashion is a big part of what we do, every day. In order to show the work we collaborate with hair stylists, makeup artists, photographers, filmmakers, models, musicians, artists and architects, depending on the project that we are working on at the time.



SIX is a fashion practice created by **Dr Denise Sprynskyj** and **Dr Peter Boyd**. It revolves around the deconstruction and excavation of found garments, and the transformation of their surface. Sprynskyj and Boyd are Senior Lecturers in the School of Fashion & Textiles – (Design) at RMIT University.