

# Jessica Hemmings

www.jessicahemmings.com

jh@jessicahemmings.com

## Employment

- October 2008 – present Associate Director, Centre for Visual & Cultural Studies, Edinburgh College of Art  
curriculum development and delivery of critical studies for school of design,  
line management six lecturers and two administrative staff
- March – October 2008 Reader, Textile Culture, Winchester School of Art  
development and dissemination of self-initiated textile research to international audiences  
through lectures, publications and the organisation of conferences
- April 2006 – October 2008 Programme Leader BA (Hons) Textiles, Fashion & Fibre, Winchester School of Art  
curriculum development and delivery of studio practice and critical studies impacting 320 students,  
line management of ten lecturers, budget holder for department
- Jan – April 2006 Lecturer, Theory and Practice of Textiles, Winchester School of Art  
undergraduate and postgraduate critical studies in textile design, textile art, fashion
- May 2006, 2007 & 2008 dissertation supervisor, MA Design for Textile Futures, Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design  
supervision of critical writing for studio practice, responsible final dissertation marking
- Sept. 2003 - May 2005 Adjunct Faculty, Liberal Arts Department, Rhode Island School of Design  
developed & taught courses: Writing on Making: The Literature and Theory of Contemporary Craft,  
Contemporary British Literature and Composition and Literature

## Education

- Oct. 2001 – Feb. 2006 Ph.D. Modern Literature “The Voice of Cloth: Fiction of Yvonne Vera”  
University of Edinburgh
- Sept. 1999 – Sept. 2000 MA (Distinction) Comparative Literature (Africa/Asia)  
School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
- Sept. 1995 – June 1999 BFA (Honors) Textile Design  
Rhode Island School of Design

## Books

*The Textile Reader* (Berg: 2011)

Editor of collection that includes critical writing and fiction to provide a foundation for teaching textile theory.

*In the Loop: Knitting Now* (Black Dog: 2010)

Editor of text and image led essay collection that aims to challenge oversimplified definitions of knitting as domestic craft and capture the diversity of contemporary textile culture related to knitting today.

*Yvonne Vera: The Voice of Cloth* (kalliope paperbacks: 2008)

Author of critical study about the presence and purpose of cloth as metaphor, structure and object in the fiction of Zimbabwean author Yvonne Vera.

## **Academic Articles / Book Chapters**

“Grown Fashion: Animal, Vegetable or Plastic?”

*Textile: The Journal of Cloth and Culture*, volume 6, issue 3, Berg Publishers, 2008.

“Second Skins: Pinar Yolacan, Tissue Culture and Art & the Ambi Generation”

Wearable Futures: Hybrid Culture in the Development of Soft Technology Conference, CD ROM, 2005.

“Altered Surfaces: The Ambi Generation of Yvonne Vera's Without a Name and Butterfly Burning”

*Body, Sexuality and Gender*, eds. Flora Veit-Wild and Dirk Naguschewski, Rodopi Publishers, Amsterdam, 2005.

“How All Life is Lived, in Patches’: Quilting Metaphors in the Fiction of Yvonne Vera”

*The End of Unheard Narratives: Contemporary Perspectives on Southern African Literatures*, ed. Bettina Weiss, Heidelberg: kalliope paperbacks, 2004.

“Hybrid Sources: Depictions of Garments in Postcolonial Textile Art”

The Space Between Conference, CD ROM, 2004.

“Emerging Voices: the Weya Appliqué Project of Zimbabwe”

*Reinventing Textiles Volume III: Postcolonialism and Creativity*, Telos Art Publishing, Winchester, 2004.

“Appropriated Threads: The Unpicking and Reweaving of Imported Textiles”

Eighth Biennial Textile Society of America Symposium Proceedings, CD ROM, 2003.

“The Voice of Cloth: interior dialogues and exterior skins”

*Sign and Taboo: Perspectives on the Poetic Fiction of Yvonne Vera*, eds. R. Muponde & M. Taruvinga, Weaver Press Harare, 2002.

## **Feature Articles (2009)**

“Michael Olszewski: His Dark Materials” *Embroidery*, Sept./Oct., 2009: 36-39.

“Guerilla Tactics & Feats of Negotiation” *Surface Design Journal*, summer 2009: 22-27.

“Cocona Natural Technology” *Future Materials*, July 2009: 17.

“Devorah Sperber: Pixel Perfect” *Embroidery*, July/Aug., 2009: 20-25.

“Liz Williamson & Sara Lindsay” *Surface Design Journal*, spring, 2009: 44-47.

“Seamless: Dutes Miller & Stan Shellabarger” *FiberArts*, April/May, 2009: 28-29.

“Persistent Visions: Andrea Dezso” *FiberArts*, April/May, 2009: 48-51

“Rebecca Early: Upcycles Style” *FiberArts*, Jan./Feb., 2009: 38-41.

## **Exhibition Reviews (2009)**

Eva Hesse, Fruitmarket Gallery, *Selvedge*, Nov./Dec. 2009: 91.

Annette Messager, Hayward, *Surface Design Journal*, fall 2009: 59.

Nicholas Hlobo, Tate Modern, *Surface Design Journal*, fall 2009: 60-61.

Art Tapestry 2: European Tapestry Forum, Bergen, *Crafts*, July/Aug. 2009: 70-71.

Alice Kettle, Belger Arts Center, Kansas City, *Selvedge*, July/Aug. 2009:90

Norwegian Fashion Designs, Museum of Decorative Arts, Oslo, *Embroidery*, May/June 2009: 52.

The Fabric of Myth, Compton Verny, Warwickshire, *Surface Design Journal*, winter 2009: 58-59.

Tara Donovan, ICA Boston, *Crafts*, Jan./Feb. 2009: 73.

please see [www.jessicahemmings.com](http://www.jessicahemmings.com) for full list of published articles

## **Conference Presentations**

“Spoken, Printed & Virtual: Zimbabwe’s Non-Linear Narration of Memory”

International Symposium on Electronic Art, Belfast, Northern Ireland, August 2009.

Closing Remarks: “Off Which Grid?”

Off the Grid, Surface Design Association Annual Conference, Kansas City, USA, May 2009.

“Constructions of Dress in Southern African Fiction”

Postcolonial Translocations, University of Münster, Germany, May 2009.

“The Ambi Generation: Fiction’s Second Skins”

Second Skins: Cloth and Difference Symposium, London, April 2009.

“Memory and Time: Contemporary Written and Woven Narratives”

TAPESTRY 2008: The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, May 2008.

“Postcolonial Literature’s Quilting Metaphors”

Du dé cousu au cousu méticuleux: from patchwork to quilt, University of Rouen, France, November 2007.

“The Future of Written Communication in Art and Design Education”

FLUX: Design Education in a Changing World Conference, Cape Town, South Africa, October 2007.

“Constructions of Dress in Southern African Fiction”

Dress and the African Diaspora: Tensions and Flows, V&A Museum, London, England, September 2007.

“Text, Textiles and the Disruption of Repetition”

REPEAT REPEAT Conference, University of Chester, Wales, April 2007.

“Speaking When No One Else Can: Textiles and Censorship”

Textile Narratives and Conversations: Textile Society Symposium, Toronto, Canada, October 2006.

“Questioning Technology: Pixelation in Contemporary Textile Art”

Fabricating Technology Symposium, Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland, March 2006.

“Second Skins: Pinar Yolacan, Tissue Culture and Art & the Ambi Generation”

Wearable Futures: Hybrid Culture in the Development of Soft Technology, Newport, Wales, September 2005.

“Lessons from ‘Writing on Making: The Literature and Theory of Contemporary Craft’”

Design Education: Tradition and Modernity, National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, India, March 2005.

“Hybrid Sources: Depictions of Dress in Postcolonial Fibre Art”

The Space Between Conference, Perth, Australia, April 2004.

“Empowering Violence in Yvonne Vera’s Fiction”

Gender and Representation Workshop, Centre for Asian and African Literatures, London, England, February 2004.

“Texts on Textiles: The Weya Appliqué Project”

Fabric(ation)s of the Postcolonial Conference, University of Wollongong, Australia, December 2002.

“Reading Textiles Through Literature: Zimbabwe’s Craft Tradition”

Craft in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland, November 2002.

“Appropriated Threads: The Unpicking and Reweaving of Imported Textiles”

The Eighth Biennial Textile Society of America Symposium, Massachusetts, USA, September 2002.

“Altered Surfaces: Cloth and Skin Bleaching in Yvonne Vera’s Without a Name”

Versions and Subversions Conference on African Literatures, Berlin, Germany, May 2002.

## Teaching Experience

### postgraduate critical studies

- October 2008 – present MA/MFA Textile Design, Fashion, Jewellery, Performance Costume, Edinburgh College of Art  
dissertation supervision, research methods lectures, weekly seminar tutor
- May 2006, 2007 & 2008 MA Textile Futures, Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design  
dissertation supervision with emphasis on writing about practice

### postgraduate studio practice

- April 2006 – Oct. 2008 MA Textile Design, Textile Art & Fashion, Winchester School of Art  
responsible for curriculum development and team delivery of weekly studio tutorials

### undergraduate critical studies

- Oct. 2008 – present BA Design, Edinburgh College of Art  
stage 4 dissertation supervision (sole lecturer)  
stage 3 electives: Cultural Threads & Studio Writing (sole lecturer)  
stage 1 Introduction to Visual Culture (team lecturer)
- Jan. 2006 – Oct. 2008 BA Textile Design, Textile Art & Fashion, Winchester School of Art  
Contemporary Issues (sole lecturer), Reflective Journal (team lecturer)
- Sept. 2003 – May 2005 BFA, Rhode Island School of Design  
Writing on Making, Contemporary British Literature, Composition and Literature (sole lecturer)

### undergraduate studio practice

- April 2006 – Oct. 2008 BA Textile Design, Textile Art & Fashion, Winchester School of Art  
responsible for curriculum development and team delivery of weekly studio tutorials

## PhD Supervision

co-supervisor of “Strategies for Sustainable Resist Dyeing Industries in Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria”  
Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton (passed viva with revisions requested on 27/09/09)

## External Consultancy

- 2009 – 2013 External Examiner, MA Textiles: Contemporary Dialogues, Swansea Metropolitan University
- May 2009 External Academic Panel Member for periodic review and course re-validation  
Norwich University College of the Arts (MA Textile Culture)
- 2007 – present Peer Review Reader for *The Journal of Cloth & Culture* and Berg textile publications
- 2003 – 2007 Contributing Editor *Selvedge Magazine*

## Conference Organisation

*Nostalgia* at the Winchester School of Art, June 26, 2009 & *Renewal* at Edinburgh College of Art, July 24, 2009  
Organiser of two linked symposia that explored ways in which textile dialogue can be expanded beyond the traditional conference format. Cross-over of speakers and audience encouraged development of sustained dialogue.

*In the Loop: Knitting Past, Present & Future*, Winchester School of Art, July 2008

Co-organiser of a three-day international conference and solo exhibition with community workshops.  
Twenty-six speakers and two hundred and eighty delegates in attendance.