

## **Wardrobe Insights**

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**Short Description:** What does your wardrobe say about you? What choices are you making as a consumer, and why? What can you learn about design from looking closely at your own preferences?

**Audience and Space:** Just you and your wardrobe to start with. Then online with a small group of friends – around six is ideal; or in person if you can arrange it.

**Duration:** The two tasks can both be done in a day or spread over two half days.

**What happens?** Firstly, you go through all the items in your wardrobe, making piles out of:

- Clothes you wear a lot of the time, even if they are season-specific
- Clothes you wear infrequently, very rarely
- Clothes you never wear, have never worn

Take a close look through the three piles. Use the worksheet attached to make notes on why the items are there, in that particular category:

- Why are the popular things worn so often? What is it you like about them? Note the physical details down – like colours, cuts, fabric types, print, decoration, etc. Also note any emotional reasons, for example, a jumper that makes you feel safe and cosy.
- For the things you wear rarely, why is this the case?
- For the things you never wear, why is this the case?

Bring the worksheet to the online or physical meeting. Each person should have completed the task in advance. Now share your findings by presenting one item from each of the three categories.

Note the commonalities down on the worksheet. What are the common characteristics for each garment?

**Equipment Needed:** Your wardrobe, pen, paper.

**Suggested Timings:** The wardrobe task should be completed in two hours. The workshop should take two hours; each of the six people participating should present their worksheet for ten minutes and then the group should discuss the insights for ten minutes.

**Post Workshop Creativity:** How can you use the commonalities you identified to create a design brief?

**Further Reading:** *Circular Design Researchers in Residence. A workshop report for the circular design speeds project with Filippa K (2016-2018)* (Earley & Goldsworthy 2019); *Opening up the Wardrobe: A Methods Book* (Fletcher & Klepp 2017)

**Feedback:**

Please feedback to the CCD team, [c.lowther@arts.ac.uk](mailto:c.lowther@arts.ac.uk)

## Wardrobe Worksheet

Self-Survey:

ITEM	Physical	Emotional
<b>Clothes you wear a lot of the time</b>		
<i>Insert short item description, e.g. red wool socks</i>	<i>Insert the physical aspects that make this a well-worn item, e.g. the colour, the softness of the wool, etc</i>	<i>Insert any emotional reasons here, e.g. my mother bought them for me for Christmas from our favourite shop in her town</i>
<b>Clothes you wear infrequently</b>		
<b>Clothes you never wear</b>		

Analysis:

<b>The clothes we wear a lot of the time have these aspects in common:</b>
Physical characteristics:
Emotional characteristics:
<b>Clothes we wear infrequently have these aspects in common:</b>
Physical characteristics:
Emotional characteristics:
<b>Clothes we never wear have these aspects in common:</b>
Physical characteristics:
Emotional characteristics: