

Matter of Being is a project concerned with the emotional properties of our everyday textiles and investigating cloth at the intersection between body and lived experiences.

Cloth is a socially, politically, economically, and culturally loaded material. From the first point of production through to its varying and versatile everyday use, it is a material entrenched in both possibilities and problems, with a vast history and an adapting future. It is a material caught in a state of tension – between its undeniable power to both maintain and modify how we live, its ubiquitous and arguably overlooked role in our everyday lives, and its periodic and problematic position within social and environmental concern.

The ideas I am currently studying consider and explore both cloth and body as relational materials. With an inherent interconnection to each other, I view these mediums as accesses of inclusive knowledge between how we can further understand our world and each other. We are embedded in a material world and both body and cloth are forms of matter susceptible to and in a state of perpetual change.

The emotional properties of woven textiles I am interested in centre around topics of memory, personal and social material value and the humanness that is instilled in the very nature of how cloth performs and acts in the world.

Cloth is receptive. It carries fragments of us, of our history, and in one way or another it informs how we live in the present. It is a material that can be understood as a 'silent witness to the routines of our everyday lives'¹; a material that takes on all that we do and all that we feel.

¹ Textures of Memory, the Poetics of Cloth (Johnson, 1999)