

Associate Artist - Jill Kennedy - McNeill

Writing these things is terrible isn't it. Do you use big impressive words? Do you make it sound like someone else has written it because you're so busy, successful, prolific and important that you have people to do these things for you? Do you write in the first person and risk seeming twee and/or desperate to be viewed as 'authentic'? Twee and authentic for me, I think.

It's hard for me to write a few erudite, well-considered lines about my practice. Maybe that means my practice isn't very well-considered? That could be true as I never studied fine art, I come from a design background. But that seems a bit unfair and I think I'm supposed to be selling myself here, so I'll do the best I can to sum things up.

I like the idea that art can play some small part in challenging the problematic and oppressive systems of this world. I like it as a function as much as an outcome. I work across different mediums but my training in garment design and manufacture means that my practice sits at the uncomfortable intersection where fashion and art collide. I find my home somewhere between the unashamed commercialism of fashion and the (imagined) lack of it in art, and treat both propositions with skepticism.

I like to work with other people, most often people who don't have much experience of the 'creative industries' and this maybe means I have what is called a 'social art practice' (another definition I'm a bit suspicious of). I have shown work in various places across the UK, but never abroad. I work as an educator in further and higher education to pay the bills, but also because I love it deeply.

I think that's it really.

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