



“On 24 April 2013, the Rana Plaza building in Dhaka, Bangladesh collapsed, killing 1133 workers and injuring thousands more...”

As a group, we made a serious visit to the V&A, noting in particular objects included in Rapid Response Collecting. We chose the object of Primark trousers as we identified a few topics in which we had a common interest: Modernism, product design, advertising, commodification and communism, social and environmental sustainability...



To further critically interrogate the object, we went to different fast fashion brands on Oxford Street and focused our practical investigation on black trousers. We found the labels interesting in that they carried a lot of information, such as country of manufacture, price, fabric... Based on the investigation, we had initially developed an individual position on Primark trousers. My position is ‘What kind of struggles of the labour class behind the supply chains of the garment industry which lacks of transparency?’

Cataloguing experiments with labels allowed us to work together smoothly. I focused on 'Labour behind the label', Jeremy focused on 'A path of Bangladesh to the game of global trade', Cami focused on 'Shared responsibility'. This practical process defined and nuanced our positions and understandings.

In our ongoing exploration we realised that weaving is a way of being able to show the complexity of things, and it is closely linked to graphic communication design, fabric and trousers. We then started to experiment with the weaving paper technique, using the studio-based methods, we delved into developing iterative experiments that put our positions in the form of weaving into different labels. I wrote some 'cry for help' labels and wove them together with the washing instructions for a pair of black trousers. It reflects the defiant voice of labour in the Rana Plaza building in Bangladesh.

As a group, we created a lot of ideas and experiments together and we synthesised previous studio-based methods which helped to put the learning into practice. And these practical experiments allow us to critically interrogate the Primark trousers. It is worth celebrating the fact that we have maintained a continuous open-ended exploration of the objects. I love our latest version of iteration, they are like exhibits in a museum, but they are not an outcome because there are many possibilities for development based on feedback from tutor and group students. To sum up, good teamwork creates a simpler and more efficient project process. The collective and cooperative nature of the group is like a kind of weaving. Each group member plays a vital role and helps each other in the learning process.