

ANNOTATION

Annotation is overlooked and seen as a chore by many learners; often resulting in it being left to the end of a project when it becomes laborious ineffective. Annotating as your ideas come to you and as samples are produced (whether it is fashion or textiles) will always result in a more cohesive, exploratory and independent sketchbook.

Annotation should be included in your sketchbook to explain your ideas and support your visuals. When annotating your sketchbook you may find it useful to consider the following:

- Suggest improvements and developments that can make to your designs. Consider your choice of materials and techniques used to express your ideas. What you are trying to achieve? What other material or process might be more suitable and why?
- If you have developed an idea over several pages record why you have made these changes and if they have been successful. If not, what do you plan to do next, how will you improve it.
- Comment on any problems that you have had with a technique, material or design idea. If you found a way to overcome the problem record it!
- Record any usual combinations of techniques that you may wish to be reminded of in future projects.
- Comment on visual language. How have you used line, tone, texture, pattern, colour, shape, and form?
- Explain your ideas and where your inspiration has come from, including references to the work of other artists and why you have chosen it. Make links. What techniques has the artist used to portray the same ideas?
- Comment on any other relevant ideas, which show that you are evaluating your work as you go along, constantly looking for ways to improve and develop it.
- Name the technique; record the technical language and terminology for equipment. For example screen printing using a screen, squeegee and ink. Pleating, I marked the notches on the fabric as guidelines. I then pressed the fabric into place using the iron on a hot setting with plenty of steam.
- Name the fabrics used and how they do, or might, react differently to the same technique: for example replace natural with synthetic, or fine with heavy.
- Name the materials used, could you replace any components? And, if so, what effect might this have? For example fine line with heavy line, texture with solid colour, smooth with textured.
- Often learners say that they do not "Like" a technique or design when really what they mean is that the technique/design is not suitable for the intended outcome/market. It is important that you explain why you have reached this conclusion and how you might improve the sample/design so that it becomes more suitable.

Important: There is absolutely no point annotating if you then ignore it! Whatever you suggest or conclude should be evident on the next page. For example say you don't want too use silver ink, as it is too metallic don't use silver in the next 5 samples- POINTLESS!! Likewise if you talk about the developments of a design CARRY IT OUT!!

We are interested in your ability to evaluate your own work, and express your ideas and opinions. However, do not state the obvious!