

CALL FOR PAPERS:***RMIT Design Archives Journal Vol 14, No 1, 2024 | Fashion and Textile Design***

This special issue of the RMIT Design Archives Journal will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the fashion and textiles collections at RMIT University. In 1994 Professor Janet Medd, Head of RMIT's Fashion and Textile Department founded RMIT's Textile Resource Centre. In 1997 this Centre became known as the Frances Burke Textile Resource Centre following a generous bequest by Fabie Chamberlain in memory of her life-long companion Frances Burke. This special issue of the Journal will focus on the collections acquired by RMIT University from 1994 until 2007, including the archives of Prue Acton, Ailsa Graham Art Fabrics, the Fashion Design Council, Frances Burke, Rae Ganim, Hall Ludlow, Diane Masters, Robert Maltus and Bee Taplin.

Textile Design Collections:

The RDA's textile design archives reflect the changes which took place in the practice of textile design in Australia, from a craft-based activity to a design profession over the course of the 20th century, and the changes in textile production which also occurred at this time. They are records of individual textile designers, textile businesses and teachers who were leaders in the field in Melbourne and whose approach significantly increased the appreciation of the value of textile design within the Australian community.

Fashion Design Collections:

The fashion design collections document the development of the fashion industry in Melbourne and nationally from pre-Second World War to the 21st century. A strength of the collection is the archival material related to fashion 'salons' in the 1950s, the youth revolution of the sixties and radical 'precocious' fashion of the 80s and 90s. The fashion sub-collection also holds a range of material including fashion magazines and publications, visual merchandising records, media clippings, RMIT student workbooks and projects, business records, fashion awards, media clippings, photographs, audio and video recordings and digital material.

How to participate:

Contributions that respond to the overall theme of the foundation collections are welcome and we also invite you to consider both the sub-themes and types of contribution as follows:

Sub-themes:

- Curating and exhibiting the Fashion and Textile Collections
- Partnerships between the School of Fashion and Textile and the Frances Burke Textile Resource Centre (now RMIT Design Archives)

- Reflections on textile and fashion design archiving practices - Objects, materials, spaces, and everything in between
- Promoting textile and fashion design/practices: making visible underrepresented designers, their places, and practices
- How fashion and textile archival collections can be used as communal resources, re-appropriation, re-use, re-interpretation from inside as well as outside the archives.
- The RDA's Garment Collection - objects that inspire your own design practice from the collection.

Types of papers:

We welcome a variety of written papers in response to the Call, including:

- Full papers (3000 – 5000 words) presenting original research.
- Case Studies (3000 words) that describe how a particular designer or design practice, group, project, event, or situation has been studied and analysed, including the impact on the of future fashion and textiles discipline.
- Statements of pedagogy or practice (2000 – 3000 words) outlining a scenario, experience, description, story, a day in the life of..., a design educator in the Archives.
- Conversations (length dependant on case) offering insights through written discussions between students, educators, or researchers around a particular Archive/designer etc.
- Visual Submissions (maximum 2000 words) making use of primarily visual content and structures, including: visual cases; storytelling and narratives; past projects involving the RMIT Design Archives and the Foundation collections.

Timeline:

18 December 2023	Call for Submissions opens
22 January 2024	Synopsis/Abstract deadline
5 February 2024	Notification of outcome
23 March 2024	Deadline for full submissions
25 March – 12 April	Review period (1 month)
16 April 2023	Deadline for final reviewed submissions
16 May 2023	Publication of Journal
23 May 2024	Launch in The Capitol

Submit a proposal!

Please submit a summary of your proposed contribution to rmitdesignarchives@rmit.edu.au, before proceeding with your contribution. The summary of your proposal should include:

- Your Name/s:
- Relevant discipline:
- Contact/s: Email, and Telephone
- Summary of proposal: 300 words or a visual submission

Further information: rmitdesignarchives@rmit.edu.au

Resources:

Visit the RDA's website to view past issues: <https://www.rmit.edu.au/about/our-locations-and-facilities/facilities/research-facilities/rmit-design-archives/journal>

Visit the RDA's collection website to explore the collections: <https://www.rmit.edu.au/about/our-locations-and-facilities/facilities/research-facilities/rmit-design-archives/collection>

Email us to receive a copy of the 2021 *Significance Assessment of the RMIT Design Archives* by Heritage Consultant, Melinda Mockridge. Funded through a Community Heritage Grant by the National Library of Victoria. Email: rmitdesignarchives@rmit.edu.au