

Repurposing PPE: Workshop outcomes 1

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Description: The exhibit explores the theme of 'reparation' through creative experimentation into repurposing used PPE isolation gowns. The exhibit comprises fashion and textile concepts; 2-D samples and 3-D prototypes developed from the gown materials, to prevent them from being shipped offshore or sent to landfill after the legislated '75 wash and wear' cycle. While reusable medical textiles outperform disposable products on human and environmental scales, there is still an urgent need to move towards a circular system whereby the life of the polyester/carbon fabric is extended before being recycled as fibre. Through a series of workshops between March and April 2023, the researchers worked alongside students and staff from the Fashion, Textile and Knitwear department, to develop potential solutions for repurposing this waste stream. Outcomes included patchworked, knitted, printed, woven and embroidered pieces, upcycled gowns, full and half-scale garments. For more information see project Instagram @ppe_refashioned

Full-scale garments

Steven Attenborough: *Unisex Work Shirt* - with R-seam detail to reinforce the practice of 'reuse'.

Katherine Townsend and Leanne Tonkin: *Cross Contamination Gown* - transfer printed and hand stitched stains.

Emily Cheung: *Knotted Cover-up and Top* – to wear on the beach instead of being washed-up there.

Half-scale garments

Eloise Salter: *Zero Waste Dress* - with embroidered neck and seaming details.

Maggie Bushby: *Box Structure Dress* - bonded/pleated apron, lantern sleeves and necktie.

Rosemarie Heath: *Circular Dress* – cut from PPE gown panels.

Textiles/ artifacts

Alison Escott: *Sublimation Prints* - bacterial biofilms, protection, risk and beauty.

Emma Prince: *Kontent for Lifestyle Bag*

Debbie Gonet: *Embellished Sleeve and Cuff*

Fiona Foster: *Woven Waste* – herringbone weave

Karen Harrigan and Eloise Salter: *Hand Worked Samples* – smocking, pleating, sashiko etc.

Screen: Showing workshops conducted at NTU in March and April 2023.

REPAIR Exhibition Images



REPAIR Exhibition view courtesy Aalto University 2023.



View of Repurposing PPE exhibits. Photo K.Townsend 2023.