

LEARNING RESOURCE

JENNY KEE & LINDA JACKSON

TEXTILES TECHNOLOGY Stages 4 & 5

TEXTILES AND DESIGN Stage 6

TEX4-3 describes the creative process of design used in the work of textile designers

TEX5-3 explains the creative process of design used in the work of textile designers

P6.1 identifies and appreciates the factors that contribute to the quality and value of textiles in society

H6.1 analyses the influence of historical, cultural and contemporary developments on textiles



In the mid 1970s Jenny Kee and Linda Jackson began to forge a unique vision of Australian dress, one that did not look to the trend-driven fashion mainstream for inspiration but drew on the Australian environment with creativity and flair.

When the pair first met in 1973, both felt an immediate connection and Kee began stocking Jackson's original designs in her flamboyant Flamingo Park Frock Salon in Sydney's Strand Arcade.

Together, with a group of creative collaborators, they showcased their designs in the annual Flamingo Follies fashion parades, transforming Australian fashion with their colourful expressions of the country's natural and cultural landscape.

The Museum houses an extensive record of their partnership and individual careers, including artworks, textiles, photographs, videos, and sketches which can all be accessed via the Museum's online collection.

collection.maas.museum/

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SEE

What can you see?

Materials
Colours
Shapes

THINK

What do you think?

Why do you think Jenny Kee used knits as a textile?

What words come to mind when you look at this jumper?

WONDER

What do you wonder about this object?

How was it knitted? On a machine? By hand?

How would you redesign this jumper?

CREATE

Inspired by Jenny Kee's *Koala* jumper, develop a design you would knit into a jumper.

Consider how your design would transform when knitted?

What do you think it will look like?

What motifs would you use?

Would your jumper make not only a fashion statement but a social or environmental statement?

THE KOALA JUMPER

In 1974, with Flamingo Park's first winter season looming ahead, Jenny Kee decided to create a garment that was distinctly Australian, combining wool 'our greatest export' with the traditional craft of knitting with 'purely Australian imagery'. These knits featured simple kookaburra, kangaroo and koala motifs, and soon were in great demand.

When Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer in 1981, they were gifted a pair of koala and kangaroo motif jumpers designed by Jenny Kee. A year after the wedding Diana, Princess of Wales, was photographed wearing the koala jumper at a polo match. The image of Diana in a knit jumper with a koala on the front and map of Australia on the back made headlines around the world. Princess Diana was praised on her independent, practical and modern way of dressing which contrasted to the traditional outerwear usually worn by the British monarchy.

The jumper became a significant element in the Jenny Kee story. She was bombarded with orders for her knits, including the koala knit, and was asked to design a 'Blinki Di' version for *Australian Women's Weekly* readers to make at home.

In 2018, Australian fashion label Romance Was Born reinterpreted the *Koala* jumper in their *Step Into Paradise Kinda Couture* show during Paris Haute Couture Fashion Week.

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SEE

What can you see?

Materials

Colours

Shapes

THINK

What do you think?

What inspired Linda Jackson to make this outfit?

How did she start making the outfit? What would have been the first step?

WONDER

What do you wonder about this object?

Imagine an event or place someone could wear this outfit to.

What shape would the outfit take if it were laid out flat?

CREATE

Create a design for a garment that mimics the landscape around you.

Linda Jackson uses materials and the proportions of the body to direct her design, by cutting and draping materials in different ways.

Think of how you might use materials such as flowers or leaves to make a concept design, without sketching.

WARATAH OUTFIT

Inspired by Balenciaga's sculptural gowns from the 1960s, Linda Jackson has created many dresses, translating the form, shape and colours of the waratah into a myriad of designs.

The shapes of the garment are first cut into red or green taffeta, made to resemble the petals or leaves of the flower. Jackson then drapes the cloth onto the mannequin and explores the ways the garment can be designed, using different proportions, colour and structures.

This three-piece women's outfit in pink and red silk taffeta, consists of a halter-neck top, covered in individually cut petals and a full, floor-length skirt with an overskirt constructed from large overlapping red and pink silk petals falling to ankle length. Around the waist is a sash of smaller petals.