

Mirabilia Domestica

a guided tour through a cabinet
of textile wonders

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To Think Is To Experiment
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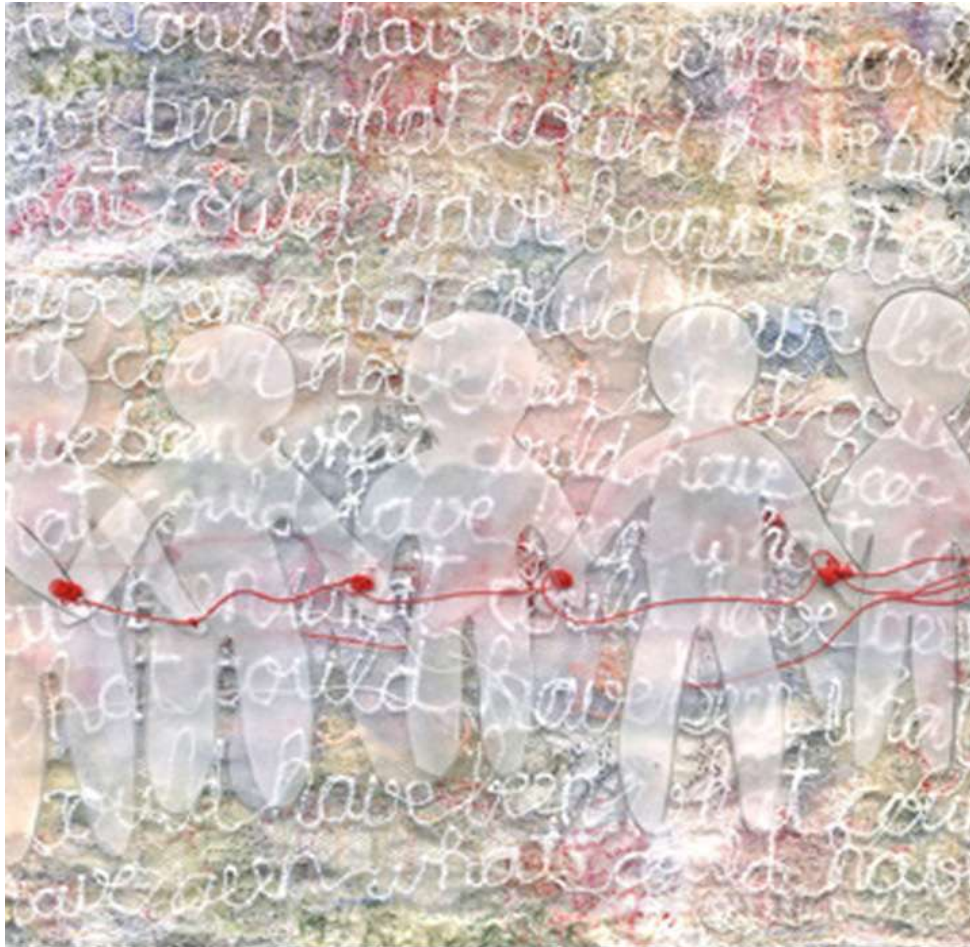
Arts & Humanities
Research Council





“We carry with us the memory of many fabrics.”

Paolo Freire (2004:23)



“Reviewing DNA structures might lead a textile scientist to the assumption that God is familiar with macramé.”

Kerstin Kraft (2004:284)

‘Tissue, textile and fabric provide excellent models of knowledge, excellent quasi-abstract objects, primal varieties: the world is a mass of laundry.’

Michel Serres (1998)





‘Seeing a white shape in the garden in the half-light, Nasrudin asked his wife to hand him his bow and arrows. He hit the object, went out to see what it was, came back almost in a state of collapse.

“That was a narrow shave. Just think. If I had been in that shirt hanging there to dry, I would have been killed. It was shot right through the heart.”

Idries Shah (1993:57)

'A jacket, a gift from a fisherman friend, worn soft through many years of hard labour. For me it was a symbol of a perfect male friendship. When I wore it I felt like a sea-wolf. I suppose I must have been reading Hemingway at the time.'

(my correspondence)





‘When I was a kid, one of the great sensory delights in the bath was chewing my face cloth.’

(my correspondence)

‘How big, how enveloping, is an old sheet when we unfold it!’

Gaston Bachelard (2004:81)





Kunst- und Naturalienkammer

Halle/Germany
founded 1698

‘...wonder makes the world and all its phenomena into an invitation to research; knowledge will only increase engagement and wonder, not diminish it.’

Sina Najafi (2008)



‘Nothing is sweeter than to know all things.’

Ulisse Aldrovandi (1522 – 1605)



The Ark

The Storyteller's toolboxes





Scrapbook



Cinderella's legacy



3rd SUN SUIT-2-3 YEARS-218



Patons Beehive Fingering 3-ply



“Play is older than culture.”

Johan Huizinga (1998:1)



'My earliest memory is of my father taking me to start school. [On the way...] he lost a leather button from his camel coat. I remember searching for it for weeks and weeks after, I never found that button.'

BBC Radio 4 Memory Experience (2006)



Attachments

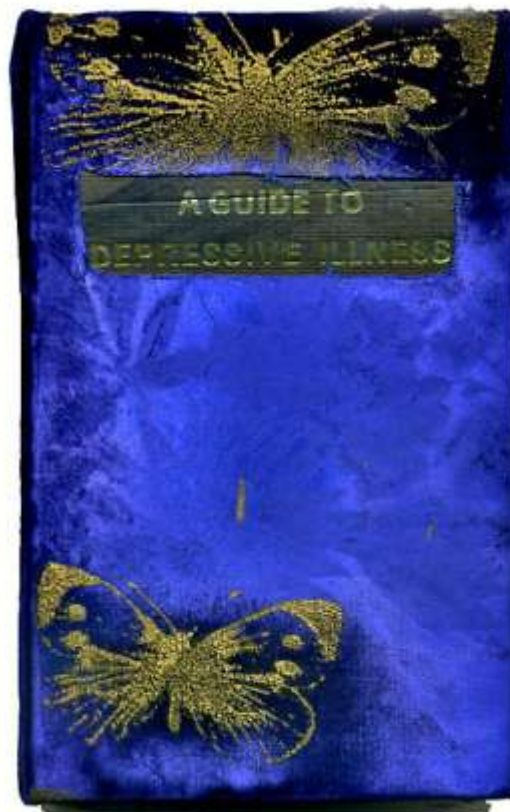


“My earliest memory is of the coronation of Elizabeth II - the whole family had congregated at my Aunt’s home [...] - it was a wonderful occasion but it is always spoilt for me because I spilt a glass of orange juice on the cream carpet in the sitting room - I was horrified - I knew I had let my parents and myself down and I couldn’t tell anyone - I just pulled a cushion over it and spent the rest of the day expecting someone to find out what I had done. It was never mentioned so I suppose my aunt had no idea how it happened but it scarred my memory.”

BBC Radio 4 Memory Experience (2006)

'...the collection encodes an intimate narrative, tracing what Proust calls 'le fil des heures, l'ordre des années et des mondes' – the continuous thread through which selfhood is sewn into the unfolding fabric of a lifetime's experience.'

Roger Cardinal (1994:68)





‘Telling the story of the journey as I draw, I weave a narrative thread that wanders from topic to topic, just as in my walk I wandered from place to place.’

Tim Ingold (2007:87)

curiositas



‘an uncontrollable passion to see, learn, know... ties together a roving sensual perception with getting lost inside fictions.’

(Stafford 2001:590)

‘the purest form of insubordination’

(Nabokov, in Warner 2004:1)

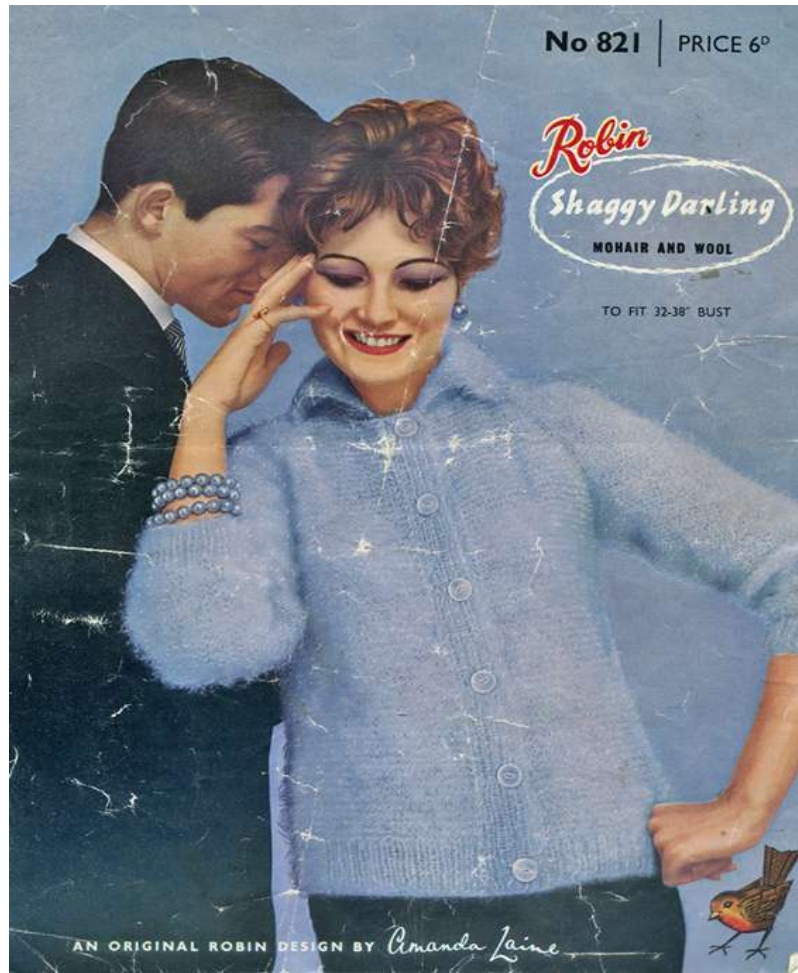


‘I cannot put all my research efforts into one kind of artistic problems.

So I interdisciplinaryize my reflections.

You say I don’t have a method. While mixing is my method.’

Dieter Lesage (2007)



‘Take joy in your digressions.
Because that is where the
unexpected arises.’

Brian Massumi (2002:18)

Control Issues



‘Every passion borders on the chaotic, but the collector’s passion borders on the chaos of memories.’

Walter Benjamin (1999: 61, 62)



‘Undergarments: One always shows too much, and never enough.’

From the Dictionary of Accepted Ideas
Gustave Flaubert, *Bouvard and Pecuchet*



“Sight gives us *dreams*, touch gives us *truth*.”

Johann Gottfried Herder (1778)





‘The hand is a friend of the brain. [...]



Because the hand is an organ connected to the other parts of the body, it can see and feel and think.’

Lee Ufan (2004:548/9)

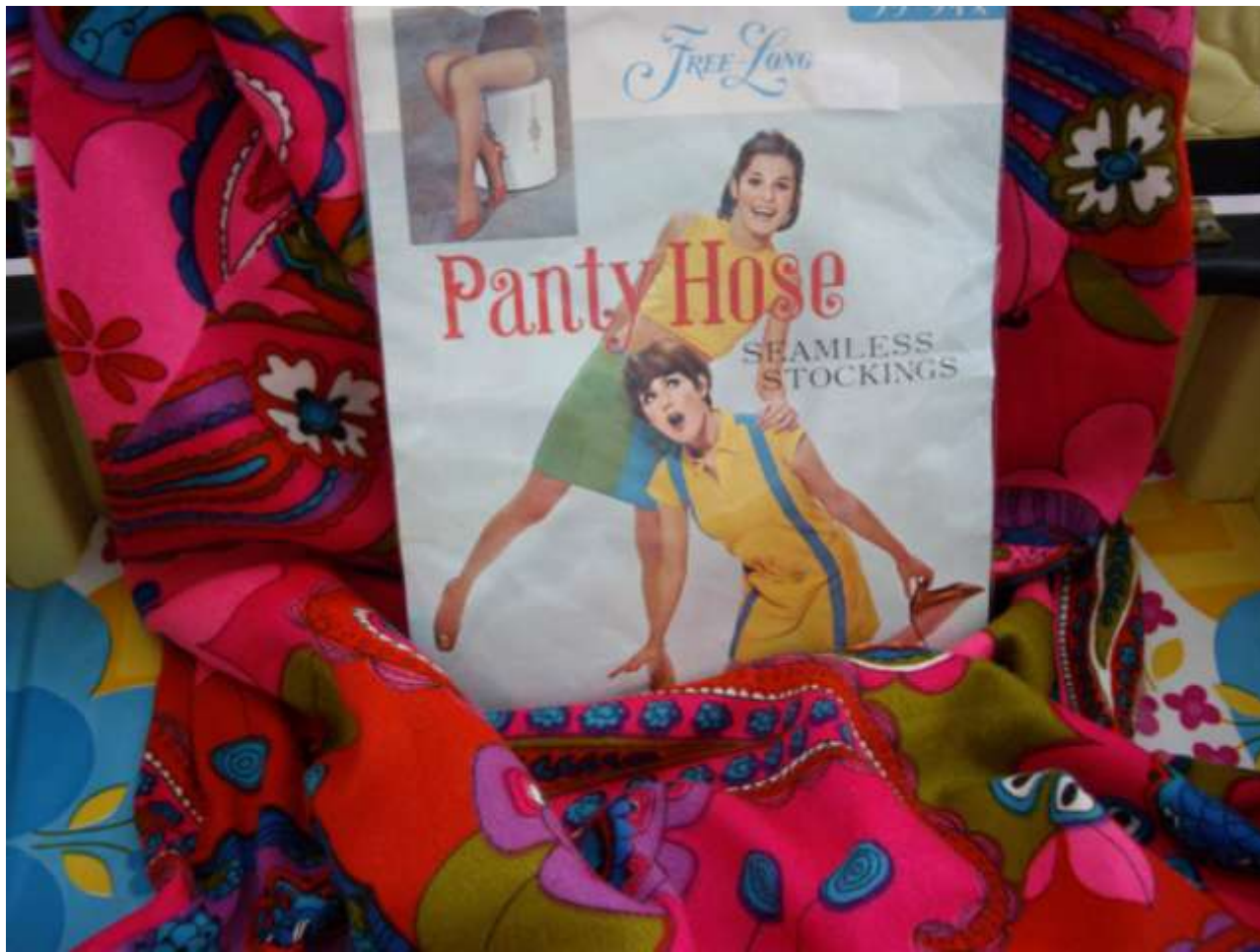


‘The casket contains the things that are *unforgettable*.



Here the past, the present and the future are condensed.’

Gaston Bachelard (1994:84)



‘No matter how I try to imagine in detail what is going to happen to me, still how inadequate, how abstract and stilted is the thing I have imagined in comparison to what actually happens!’

Henri Bergson (1992:91)

‘Actions are more important than wool.... joining, weaving etc... not only with a physical object but with relationships, experiences with others.’

Aneeta Patel (Triggs et al 2006)



Miriam & Louise
Eastbourne Blind Society





Non verbis sed rebus



‘The trouble with words. (Are artists allergic to words?) No. But they fear that words – like the reflection on the glass of the display cabinets – obscure the view of the object itself. Locked up and anaesthetised, the precious creation was robbed of its scent and replaced by the library.’



‘We had to dress ourselves before building, clothe ourselves in loose garments before constructing solid buildings.’

Michel Serres (2008:83)





only said, "Well, it is best to be prudent. I shall change the hour for starting."

"You are a cunning one, captain, but I really think you are over-careful sometimes."

"Jem," said the other gravely, "there is a mystery in this man. There is a black gang in it, and that Walker is one of them. I think they have sworn to have my gold or my life, and they have either, if I can help it. I shall start two hours before."

He was quite right. Walker had been shamming at four hours ago he had told his confederates, as a matter all that he had heard in the enemy's camp.

Walker, a timid villain, was unprepared for the last exultation from his confederates, and he followed.

These two, by gratifying at once told them he long stay, and the left unguardedly conjectured at one in one form or other.

"When do they
"To-morrow
"The bush is
"And dark to
"It is just the
"Will two of y
"Plenty, the w
"The men are

"Their stream
to use their art
"For Heaven
beginning to trem
led these men.

"Do you think they will give up their swag while they are asked brusque scornfully.

"Then I wash my hands of it all," cried the little self-cultif; and he affected to have nothing to do with it.

Walker was then thanked for his information, and he thought this was a good opportunity for complaining of his wrong and demanding redress. This fellow was a thorough egotist, saw everything from his own point of view only.

Jem had dragged him before Judge Robinson; Robinson had played the beak and found him guilty; Levi had furnished the test on which he had been convicted. All these had therefore cruelly injured and nearly killed him.

Himself was not the cause. He had not set all these tones



rolling by forging upon Nature and robbing Jem of thirty pounds. No! he could not see that, nor did he thank Jem one bit for it, and saving his life at risk of his own. Why did he throw him in, the brute? if he was not quite nearly, and Jem the cause.

His confederates soothed him with promises of vengeance, and soon after catching sight of Levi, they



"It is Never Too Late to Mend."

Priority Care

"It is Never Too Late to Mend."

CHAPTER LXVI.

We left Robinson and Jem talking at the entrance to the tent. "Come in," said Robinson; "you will take care of this tent while we are gone."



‘The banal fact that material practice revolves around loss more often than preservation - luster fades, things fall apart, we eat soup - receives scant attention or is tidily dismissed.’

Richard Colloredo-Mansfield (2002:246)



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