



Artisanal Heritage

My project Artisanal Heritage explores the significance of heritage and craft in shaping our history, tradition, culture, and identity. It draws inspiration from protected heritage sites across the UK that preserve the stories of our ancestors and our society's evolution. Additionally, it sheds light on endangered rural crafts listed on the HCA's red list. These crafts are living testaments to our cultural identity, reflecting our customs and traditions. My project merges traditional techniques with contemporary designs. By combining leatherwork, crochet, and machine knitting, I bridge the gap between the past and the present, breathing new life into our heritage.

Influenced by brands like Loewe, known for their emphasis on traditional craftsmanship and quality, I emphasise the value of handmade items and the beauty of artisanal techniques. Today, the appreciation for handmade skilled crafts and value of quality has been overshadowed by the fast-paced, mass-produced nature of the fashion industry. Consumers need to remember there is beauty and value in the way every piece is different, unique, and humanised.

Aligned with current trends of sustainability and social responsibility, I utilise natural materials such as veg-tanned leather and cotton yarns. These materials offer durability, longevity and sustainability compared to synthetic alternatives, further aligning with the project's concept.

The primary aim of this project is to raise awareness about endangered crafts and encourage engagement with traditional techniques. Artisanal heritage serves as a reminder of the diversity and authenticity present in our heritage crafts. It encourages us to value the individuality and craftsmanship of handmade items in a world dominated by uniform mass production.

By safeguarding our cultural legacy, the project invites us to reconnect with our roots, fostering a sense of pride and connection to our heritage. Through this journey, we preserve our traditions, nurture our cultural identity, and pass down this rich legacy to future generations.

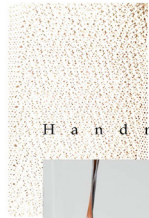
Lucy Dollery



Heritage and Craft

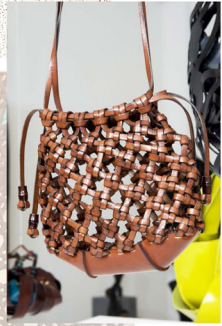
"Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritage are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration."
- UNESCO

A r t i s a n a l



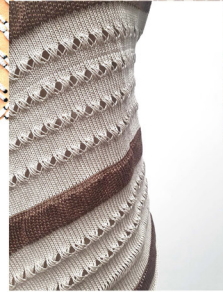
H a n d m a d e .

C r a f t s m a n s h i p .



Arko

T r a d i t i o n

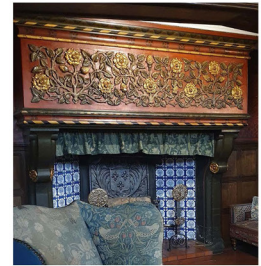


Artisan- a worker in a skilled trade, especially one that involves making things by hand.





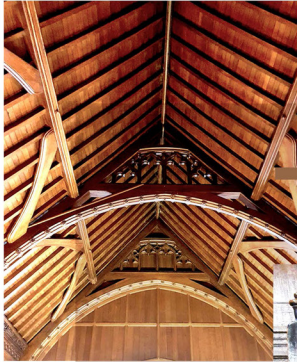
Intricate marquetry patterns found in heritage furniture, create 3D raised textures .



Arts and Crafts Movement, a reaction to the negative effects of industrialisation. Emphasis on traditional craftsmanship and rejecting excessive ornamentation.



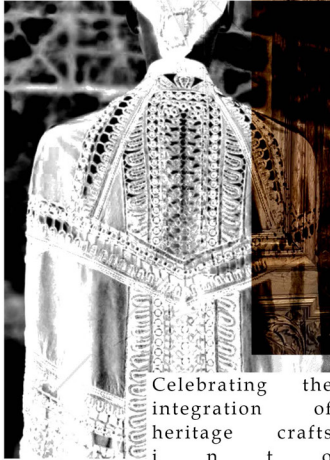
Parquetry based on recurring patterns, simplistic technique only using 1 or 2 colours of wood.



Crafted textures, manual dexterity.



Marquetry, inlaid work made from small pieces of coloured wood or other materials, used for decoration of furniture.

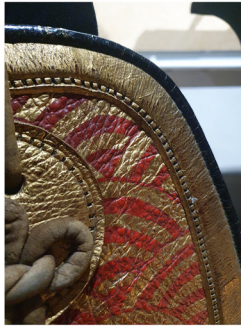


Celebrating the integration of heritage crafts into contemporary design, emphasising the value of quality and longevity.



Heritage Protection.

Samurai Saddle



17th Century, Japanese. On horseback the main weapon of a samurai warrior was the bow and this type of saddle, or Kura, provided a stable and comfortable platform for shooting arrows.

Kura were made using four skillfully crafted pieces tied together with leather lacing and decorated with intricate designs. This example is constructed using red lacquered wood and leather. The sides are designed with the Seigaiha wave, an ancestral Japanese pattern which first appeared in the 6th century to illustrate seas and oceans on maps, but later symbolised power.

By the 17th Century, Kura, were mostly ceremonial and highly decorated with coloured lacquers, intricate inlays and leatherwork..



Bavarian Horse H a r n e s s

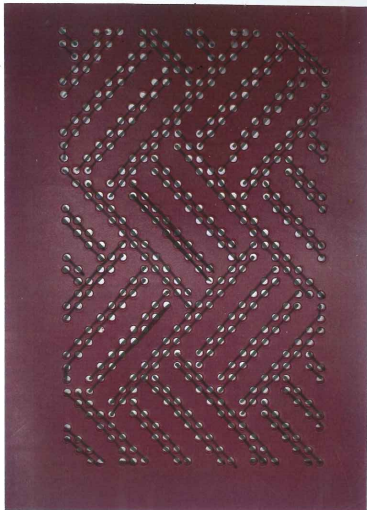
18th Century.

In the 18th Century, horse-drawn vehicles were the primary means of transportation and were also used for national representation as well as entertainment.

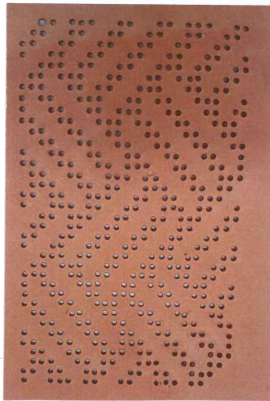
This ceremonial harness is made from maroon goatskin with an elaborate plume and gilt fittings.

Ceremonial events contribute to the story of a country, by celebrating its culture and history.

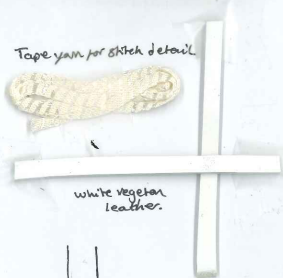
Horse furniture, such as this harness, provides a visual interpretation of a nation's pride.



Punchcard reproduced on leather with sketch detail.



Hot-punched leather pattern

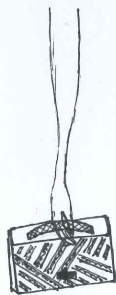


Tape yarn for sketch detail

white vegetal leather.

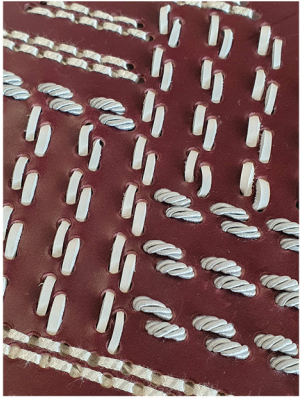


Punchcard knit patterns



Paper weaving, large scale, with B+W strips and circles

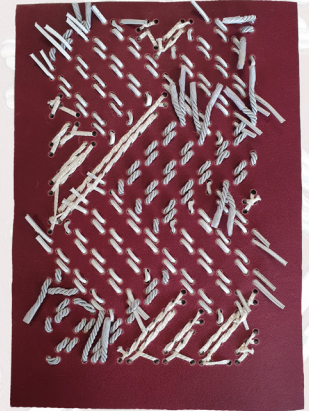
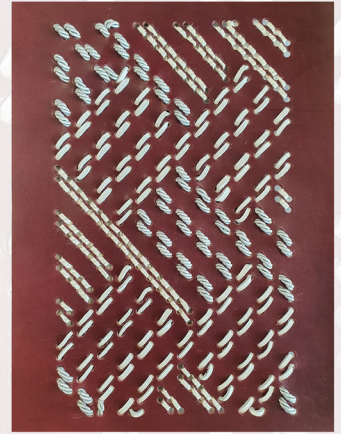




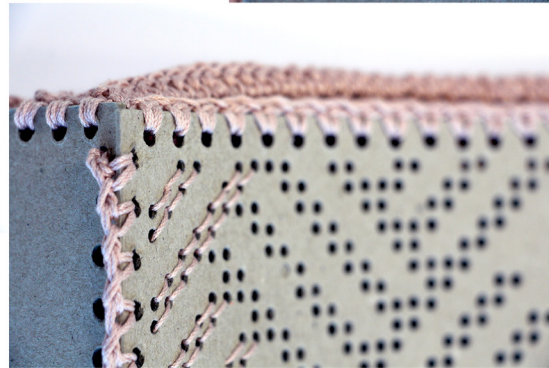
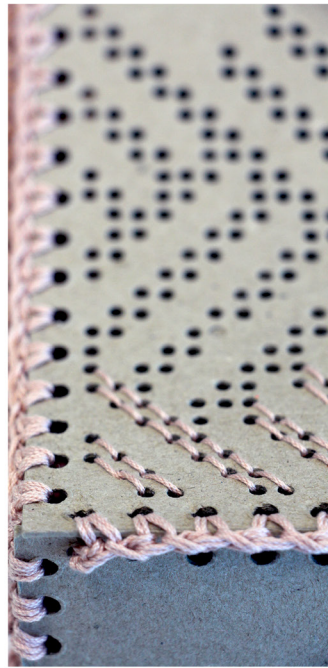
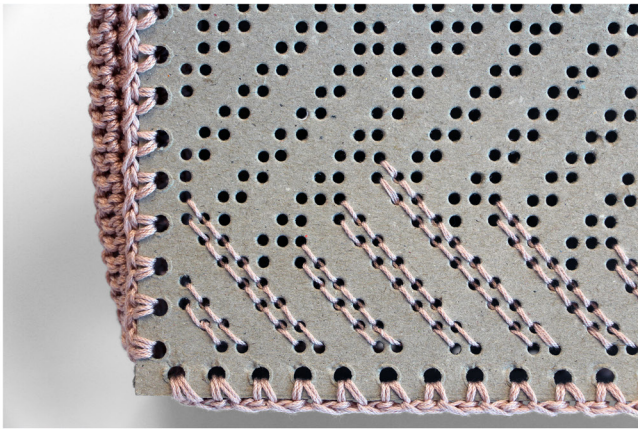
Punchcard pattern in leather with different materials woven through, white vegetan leather, silver cording and cream knitted tape yarn. Stiff leather would suit accessories well, using patterned piece of leather to create the main section, with plain leather gusset and base.



Front

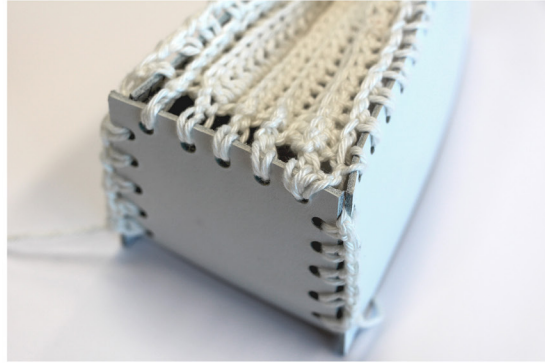
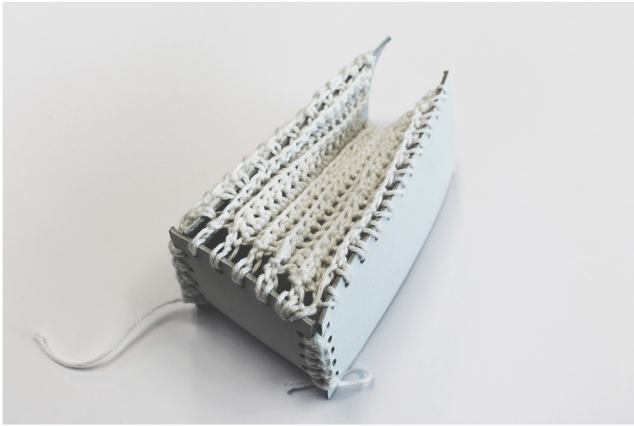


Reverse

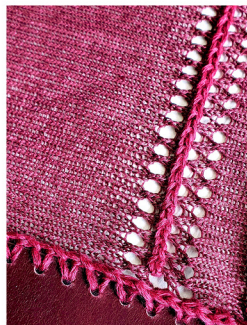
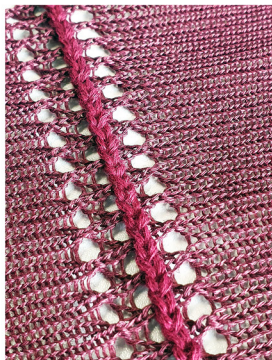


Bag Toile

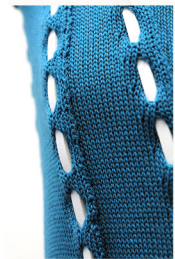
Creating a toile for my bag to test out the techniques and proportions. This tote bag is made to fit an iPad and magazine. Using greyboard to imitate the leather as it is a similar thickness. I have punched some of the pattern into the toile and embroidered a small section to see how it would look. I like the decorative feature it has created this is something I may use in another sample, only embroidering a small section.



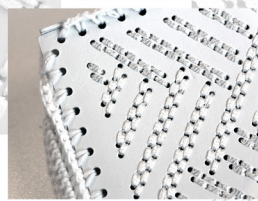
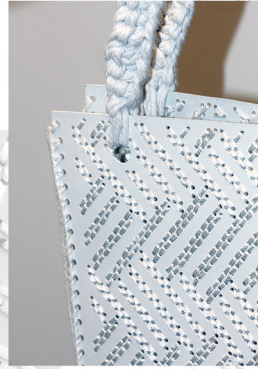
Bag experimentations. Trialling connecting 3 sides together with crochet. Using a combination of different stitched, slip stitches, doubles and trebles. Crochet/knit gussets. Also experimenting with a crochet handle.

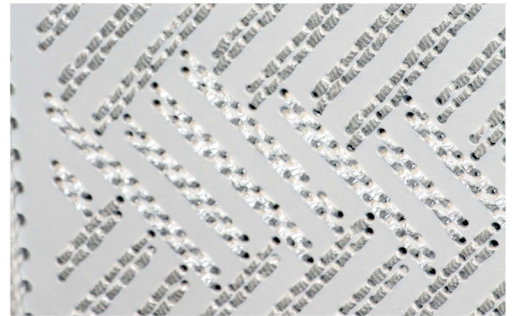


Combining leather and knit through
crochet, contrast of hard and soft
m a t e r i a l s .

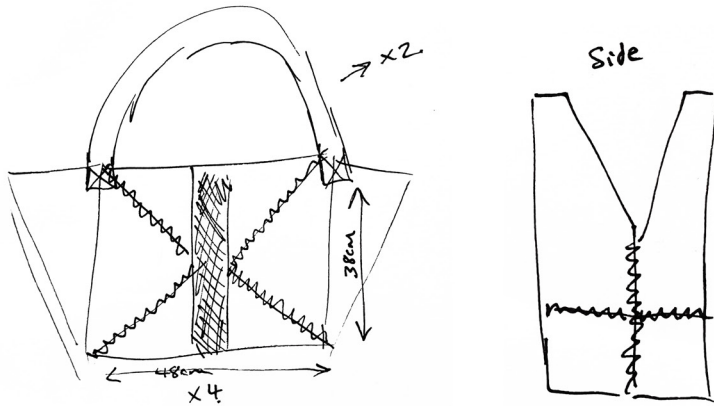


Taking the motion and technique of basket weaving into contemporary materials to use as a stitch detail holding 2 pieces of knit together.





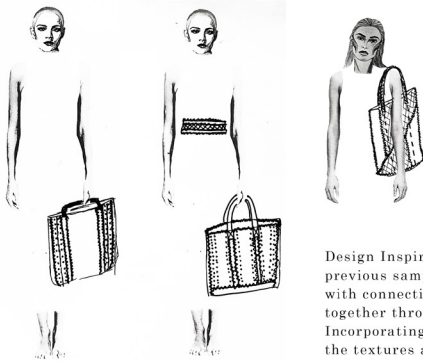
Final Design



Final Bag Sketch.

Final Bag

Made from Chrome tanned white Cow Hide leather, deadstock donated to the university. The knit is made using a cotton yarn on a domestic knitting machine, the crochet uses a white nylon tape yarn (deadstock) for its lustre. The straps are stitched with a traditional saddle stitch, done by hand. All the punched holes are also done by hand using a simple leather hole punch tool and a hammer. Everything about this bag is crafted and handmade by myself, further aligning with my concept.



Design Inspiration came from a previous sample which experiments with connecting leather and knit together through crochet. Incorporating elements inspired by the textures and patterns of the Samurai saddle as well as those within basket weaving techniques.



Toile/ Mock up
Using cartridge paper to make a toile to test the dimensions and construction of the bag using cartridge paper. This helped to imitate how the leather would perform without wasting leather in testing.





This design embodies the core values of my concept, 'Artisanal Heritage'. It is handmade using traditional crafts such as leather work, knitting and crochet. This bag brings together all the elements I have looked at throughout the project, texture, construction and pattern, whilst also having a low carbon footprint due to the handmade nature. In a commercial setting I would bring in some machinery to assist in the make however I would keep it to a minimum as the bag isn't just a luxury item it is a symbol of timeless craft and heritage, it aims to raise awareness of endangered crafts, to help restore them and keep them going for many generations to enjoy in the future. My brand will keep these values even through growth. I would invest in leather punches that cut out the bag and the holes in one press to save time, I would keep the construction of the bag to be done by hand as I feel this will produce the best result, both functional and aesthetic.





