RELECTIVE TEACHING PORTFOLIO

There is a major paradigm shift taking place in the Fashion Industry and Fashion Academia. Technology, diversity, globalization and social justice are the major drivers in the pedagogical change. Designers are forming collaborations across disciplines, creating and building global communities and using social media to challenge the status quo thus transforming the way we think about design and business. Fashion Education is calling for new ways of thinking and technology is rewiring the classroom on how fashion is being taught and how students are learning.

MY TEACHING ETHOS

My pedagogical vision is to create a space in which fashion design is used to enable students to discover their unique talents through creative exploration, self-discovery and experimentation. Equally important for successful professional careers are character building skills, a work ethos, critical thinking and business intelligence.

My human- centric stance informs my teaching strategy. Emphasis is placed on design thinking as a methodology that can be applied to sustainable design and business systems. Using research and imagination based on empathy, data analytics and critical thinking skills, students can better understand design, functionality, human needs and challenge existing paradigms.

Having a personal commitment to equality with diversity at the core of my pedagogy, I feel it is our role as educators and leaders to celebrate our students' unique gifts. In today's design world, a designer might be located in Brooklyn, design for a French brand, source knits from Italy, sell to stores in Europe and produce in China. I have integrated technology, collaboration and social media into design projects reflecting the global landscape and new business models. I found that this method of teaching promotes an in-depth understanding of our humanity, creates community and supports diversity.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology plays a huge part in the the way we work, design and shop. Some of the ways technology has transformed the fashion industry:

- ➢ The smart phone is replacing the computer

- ➢ We shop through Social Media Apps

- ➢ Fashion and Technology are creating hybrid products - bio-engineered fabrics are having an impact on the planet's resources.

- ➢ Data analytics has led to more personalized products and curated merchandising

- ➢ Digital systems track styles and trends so that companies can strategize and manufacture in real time

- ➢ AR technology has created new shopping opportunities for customers thus generating more sales revenue. Customers can mix & match styles and try clothing on for their specific body type without ever leaving home

- ➢ AR codes allow a more accurate track of inventory minimizing production expenses

- ➢ The internet has changed the shopping experience leading to increased style variety

- ➢ Social media and content engagement has changed the way we communicate

- ➢ The rise of the fashion influencer. Followers tune in on a weekly basis to get the latest on style trends, review products, services and tutorials. This has led to rock star influencer status and an $8 billion dollar industry

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

Technology is revolutionizing the learning process.   It has changed the way teachers teach and how students learn. Covid has accelerated the use of technology into our classrooms. Educators are facing new challenges, learning curves and are called to mitigate student's anxiety and uncertainty in the classroom during these unprecedented times.

The big question is how to integrate technology into fashion design teaching.   This requires training, new skill sets and hybrid education….an integration between fashion and technology.

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I use technology in my classroom as a tool for learning and connection. Using the Learning Management System Blackboard as the information hub, I post tutorial videos, PowerPoint presentations, assignments and integrate Padlet into the weekly lessons. Students have access to this system 24/7 and can work at their own pace.

Padlet was a wonderful way for students to connect with their peers and start a conversation before school started. I gave an introductory assignment calling for students to post on the online board platform using video, visuals or a short Power Point presentation.

Another powerful way I discovered during remote teaching is the importance of showing examples of students' work. Students found this methodology inspiring and were motivated to accelerate their design skills, creativity and practice. Padlet and PowerPoint presentations are wonderful digital tools to increase this type of student engagement and showcase their designs. By creating a "mini" online portfolio for each student to post their design progress, students are able to view each other's work, discuss the projects and post comments on what worked or didn't work.

SOCIAL MEDIA INTEGRATION

I also integrated social media in the design projects. An example is a project that I created with UDEM University in Mexico while I was working at FIT in Korea. Students communicated their ideas, collaborated on design projects and problem solved challenges through Instagram + Facebook.

As technology continues to evolve, the way we teach in the remote classroom will continue to change. We as teachers are finding ways to collaborate and connect. Universities are installing digital labs. I am looking forward to the day when we can correct the students design work in real time. It is our responsibility as fashion educators to inspire and educate the future designers to learn and understand the importance of design and how digital learning + digital tools can be used to broaden their intellectual and cultural awareness. This in turn will enable the next generation and future leaders to break down barriers and lead advances in design.

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