

Written Response

In my most recent research, I embarked on a journey using sewing as a medium, taking an iterative approach to studying sewing, its structure and nature. Inspired by the principles outlined in the "Conditional Design Manifesto" by Luna Maurer, Edo Paulus, Jonathan Puckey and Roel Wouters, my exploration goes beyond traditional sewing techniques to analyze its fundamental components and their interaction with various materials .

The exploration of the definition of sewing leads to an interesting analysis of its three main components: needle, thread, and surface. Like the points, lines, and surfaces in a painting, these elements form the key to the structure and aesthetics of sewing. This analogy guided my exploration towards a nuanced examination of how these elements elicit unique tactile and visual responses when juxtaposed with everyday materials.

I used rectangles as standardized shapes to maintain consistency while changing materials. This systematic process reveals the profound impact material properties have on the sewing experience. Challenges surface, particularly when dealing with dense composite materials, highlighting the critical role of thickness and composition in the sewing narrative. Materials such as plastic, paper and leaves undergo transformations, bearing traces of sewing that not only alter their intrinsic properties but also enrich the narrative of the fabrics. Iterative inspection of threads by employing the "flat stitch" technique. This stage is crucial in revealing the subtle interplay between different threads and fabrics, subtly affecting the structural integrity and tactile qualities of the fabric. The third iteration is a reimagining of the needle. I expanded its traditional role from a mere penetration tool to a broader concept embodying ideas of connection and material interaction.

Throughout this exploration, the Conditional Design Manifesto served as a beacon, guiding me through sewing as a medium for artistic expression and structural exploration. The Conditional Design Manifesto emphasizes the process rather than the final product, advocating adaptation according to the "conditions" or rules that evolve during the creative process. My iterative experimentation with different materials reflects the manifesto's emphasis on the creative process. I focus not only on the final sewn product, but also on how each material uniquely responds to the sewing process. My method of "locking" needle and thread and then systematically changing surface materials reflects the manifesto's idea of setting specific conditions and then observing how those conditions affect the creative output. I expand on the traditional definition of a needle to view it more broadly as a tool that joins or penetrates materials. This reflects the spirit of the manifesto, which is to redefine boundaries and constraints to foster creativity. By not limiting the concept of the needle to its traditional form, new possibilities are brought to sewing, just as Conditional Design encourages reimagining the boundaries of design.

It is a conversation with sewing that fosters creativity and discovery in the intricate dance of needle, thread and fabric by reimagining the boundaries of design.

Reference: Luna Maurer, Edo Paulus, Jonathan Puckey and Roel Wouters, 'Conditional Design Manifesto', Conditional Design Workbook, 2013