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In what ways do analogue drawing skills enhance
fashion thinking?

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Abstract

This contribution to knowledge was created in response to the research question “In what ways do analogue drawing skills enhance fashion thinking?”. The output consists of three mixed-media drawings which exemplify distinct moments in the fashion design process.

Research Process: Riches’ visual representations of the design practice within the house of Dior and Yves Saint Laurent ateliers were explored through practice-based research inquiry using analogue drawing methods. The research draws upon Haute Couture and luxury fashion garments (dating from 1965 to the present day) displayed in a museum or fashion studio environment.

Research Insights: The research demonstrates how analogue drawing can be used as a means to communicate various aspects of fashion design, offering forms of understanding that are not readily accessible through visual inspection or digital rendering. Mixed-media analogue methods have been used to convey the tactile relationship between people and fashion, enabling material qualities and textures to be represented in ways which enhance our understanding of garment design and construction. The output also reveals how drawing can be used to highlight connections and narratives embedded within fashion objects and spaces. For example, the drawing of Yves Saint Laurent’s desk emphasises the intertextual relationships between different forms, texts and visual histories; making visible the interconnectedness of these influences within the fashion design process.

Dissemination: This work was exhibited at Futurescan 6: Shifting Paradigms Conference at De Montfort University, UK from 9-10 September 2025. These works were also included in the conference’s exhibition catalogue.

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C. N. 2023



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