



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK

Established in late 2020, The Creative Dimension Trust (TCDT) Alumni Committee has been formed from a panel of aspiring individuals who have had their own unique journeys through TCDT.

Our aim as a committee is to reach out and celebrate the many great achievements of our alumni after their time at TCDT. We also aim to form a community of alumni, which will allow us to spread and share information about employment and work experience opportunities in specific creative career paths. The community also aspires to inspire those currently on their journey through TCDT, showing them the possibilities and potential they possess as hard-working creative individuals.

Over the past few months we have all seen a shift in changes with the gradual opening of facilities. This has also led to the successful re-introduction of face-to-face workshops. Some amazing workshops have taken place this summer, including From Dream to Product, Marbling, Casting & Gilding and Silhouette decoration. The alumni have been busy this summer, working hard at university and even graduating and receiving job offers! As usual, we encourage TCDT students to stay inspired, keep working hard and push to achieve their dreams.

A NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

Sophia Duckworth

As a past student of TCDT, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to become a member. For me, art is something I have always been interested in. After my A level in fine art, I took a year out and worked as an assistant in the art department of a boarding school. Having completed a range of workshops with the trust previously, I am currently studying for my undergraduate degree in social sciences, but plan to apply for an MA in art management next year. In my free time, I continue to paint and utilise the skills TCDT has taught me over the years, for example, incorporating gilding into my artwork. I would recommend the workshops to anyone interested in pursuing a creative career, or simply if you enjoy making art, and learning from specialist artists in their professions!



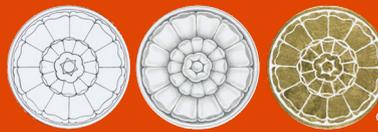
MEMORY STRUCTURE - AN INTERVIEW WITH AN ALUMNUS

Sophia Duckworth interviews TCDT committee member Camilla Dilshat about her career as an artist and her end of year exhibition at Hampstead School of Art.

What did you study at university, and what inspired you to go to Hampstead School of Art?

I studied BA History at UCL. I almost went on to study my art foundation at CSM instead, but I felt a drive to really push myself in a subject I really liked but did not think I was particularly good at. My time studying history was really challenging and stressful. Things really clicked in my final year when I took my dissertation module on the Silk Roads. My ethnicity is Uyghur and my Mum's hometown is on one of the prominent routes of the Silk Road in China. I felt that expressing these feelings through creativity would help me make sense of these complex thoughts and find more connections. I decided to return to art school and found the Hampstead School of Art. I gave them an email about their yearlong diploma courses and the rest is history!





How did you find managing to paint in your free time whilst at university?

Continuing art at university was difficult for me because I felt like I was drowning in Uni work! But joining the UCL Art Society really helped me to continue being creative here and there. I attended some of the life drawing classes and tutor-led oil painting courses they hosted and participated on group trips to art galleries around London. It can be easier to do art with people than by yourself sometimes!

Does your artwork have a main inspiration or re-occurring themes and motifs?

I use the disconnect I have with my cultural identity to create my artwork. I am Uyghur, a central Asian ethnic minority based in North-West China, but I was born in London. The clash between the cultures has led to a bit of an identity crisis so I explore disconnection, connection, memories, and insecurities through surreal mythologies. For instance, I'm obsessed with including snakes and foxes in my work, probably because of their complex symbolism as misunderstood creatures.



What was your exhibition piece about?

My exhibition piece is titled "Memory Structure". It's an installation built for the purpose of containing my own memories relating to my Uyghur culture. I took inspiration from my Mum's hometown, Turpan, and Uyghur food. Clay tongues show how I am reaching out for these memories: by sensing, feeling, licking, and even speaking. There is so much to say about this piece, but I'll leave the rest up to your own interpretations!

What TCDT workshops have you completed?

I have completed the Marquetry & Gilding, Mural Painting, Etching, Geometric Drawing and Plaster Carving workshops. Even though I am no longer 19 years old, I still had access to some of the TCDT courses as an alumnus which has been amazing for keeping up my artistic practice and creativity.

Do you have any advice for TCDT students who aren't completing an art undergraduate degree?

I would try to join your Uni art society! It's always super motivating to find like-minded people and have friends to go to gallery trips or life drawing classes with. I would also advise to keep a sketchbook! Sometimes Uni life can be busy, and I would always prioritise academic work over starting a new painting so keep an A5 sketchbook on you and do some little drawings!

How did TCDT workshops help you in your own work?

The first couple of TCDT workshops I completed really helped my portfolio applications for art foundation courses. They gave me an edge and uniqueness because not many students would have done a Marquetry and Gilding course at Buckingham Palace! The recent TCDT courses I have done help me to try out new techniques and mediums to introduce into my practice - experimenting is such an important aspect of developing your artist career!



What are your plans for the future?

In September I will start my Masters in Fine Art at City & Guilds of London Art School! I will be doing this part-time over two years and will also have a part-time job in teaching children's workshops at the Hampstead School of Art. Beyond that I hope to continue teaching as well as working as an artist.



How do you plan to use your art degree?

I plan develop my practice further in printing, ceramics, painting and exhibiting publicly. I hope to network with the other artists on my course and build a supportive artist community. Reaching out to artists who are also part of ethnic diasporas like me is also a goal of mine.



ALUMNI SUCCESSES

Part of our aim as a committee is to inspire younger students and parents and inform them of the successes that the alumni achieve. The committee members are all presently involved with TCDT workshops but have also gone on to achieve various achievements in their own creative careers. In this edition, we take a look at the successes of two of our alumni: Roshni and Hannah



Roshni with the completed stool made in TCDT Upholstery Workshop with The Royal Household

ROSHNI PATEL

While completing her diploma in Art and Design at Richmond College, Roshni found her passion for textiles, for which she was awarded with the "Best Response to Brief" award by The Turner's House Trust in 2018. She then decided to pursue textiles at De Monfort University and has now graduated BA Textile Design (Mixed Media Textiles) for which she was awarded an Upper Second Class Honours. She has attended many TDCT workshops such as Upholstery, Gilding on Textiles and Stencilling to help widen her use of materials and give her a range of new and transferrable skills. Her work was displayed in the DMU Art & Design Degree Show 2021 and now features on the New Designers 2021 Website.

"Once you find your passion, nothing can hold you back - believe in yourself and you will achieve!"



Roshni's latest work on display at the DMU Art & Design Degree Show 2021



Hannah presenting her ideas for a pavilion at the work experience with Grimshaw Architects.

HANNAH ISMAIL

Hannah is a recent BA Architecture graduate from the University of Westminster. Her first workshop was Woodcarving at Building Crafts College London which then led to an architectural work experience with Grimshaw Architects and the live project "From Dream to Product" with Zone Creations. This led to a job as a laser machine assistant with the Zone Creations team. The workshops helped boost her creative knowledge and artistic aspirations, to go on and produce her own projects. Some of which centred around storytelling and/or tackling social, and environmental issues. Hannah has since completed her degree, and has been awarded The Herbert Sands Memorial Prize for Best Detailed Design Resolution for her final year project. And landing herself a Job at a London-based practice to further develop her architectural career.

"Architecture to me is not just about designing a structure, but designing a life that it leads once built. The people it influences, what it provides, and the impact it makes."



Hannah presenting her second year project at a crit in front of a jury.

CONTACT US

Would you like to find out more about us? Or would you like to be featured in the next edition? Contact us on our Instagram Page [@tcdt_alumni](#)

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