

Independent Study
with Prof. Jason Lewis

FINAL REPORT II
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Computation Arts
CART 458 summer

12 August 2010

OVERVIEW

My second Independent Study at Obx Labs was very enriching. I learned a lot throughout the realization of my projects. Not only did I excel working with technics I have known for many years, I had the chance to discover new ones.

Moreover, the freedom I was given in the projects realization made this experience extremely motivating. Not to mention the Obx Labs team seemed to appreciate the direction my work was taking, which adds on to the motivational factors. The mission I had to integrate my worked based on Mr. Softie software to the textile environment allowed me to be very creative.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Research and compilation of bibliographies with the help of the plug-in *Zotero* made for *Firefox*. A good amount of data has been compiled for each bibliography researched.
- Modification and completion of the layout for a 100 pages document, *Skins V.1* curriculum with Skawennati's collaboration.
- Two-days formation at Hexagram textile lab with Josee Hamlin to work on the computerized jacquard loom.
- Integration of a Mr. Softie application's realization in a Jacquard Loom project.
- The illustration of the "Queen" dress in the same style of the rest of the collection.
- Completion of the "Queen" dress from the collection I did in my Independent Study II . The prototype supporting the creation for the sewing pattern of the dress was developed within my Independent Study I. Below is the work I did during my Independent study II in order to complete the dress:
 - Technical patterns creation following the prototype already done.
 - Realization of adapted graphic patterns to introduce it in the technical pattern pieces of the dress. The merge had to be really precise to avoid gaps in the a graphic pattern
 - Testing the technical patterns by building a second prototype dress in a cotton fabrics used as testing.
 - Printing and verification of the technical dress pattern on paper.
 - Printing the final technical pattern pieces with the graphic patterns integrated.
 - Creation of the leather part.
 - Building of the dress with sewing machine and hand sewing.
- Photoshoot of the dress done for documentation.

WHAT I LEARNED

In both the jacquard loom project and the dress realization project, I discovered new technics on how to further develop my worked based on Mr. Softie software. At a technical level, I learned a lot during my two-days formation on the Computerized Jacquard Loom. I learned:

- The basics of Jacquard Loom
- How to prepare an image for the “point carré” software that allows to export the data to the Jacquard Loom computer.
- The different types of “armures” and how to choose the right one.
- How repair and maintain the Computerized Jacquard Loom.
- How to export the image to the Computerized Jacquard Loom.
- The differents methode of manual “tissage”.
- How to adjust the image in fonction of my force and the “tissage” density I create.

Even though I was already acing the clothing design and creation technics, the size and complexity of the project forced me to come up with new tools and new technics. For example, the creation of a pattern to be used or transformed into a technical 3D pattern is rare and I was doing it for the first time. The integration of the Mr.Softie application in the creative process of making chloting was very inspiring, and permitted me to extend experimental typography graphics into fashion. graphics into fashion.

COLLABORATION

My Independant Study II was much more collaborative then the first one. I worked with Skawennati for the correction and the realization of the Curriculum Skins V.1 document. We exchanged lots of emails and we had meet 6 times when I was working in the lab. While I was doing the layout for the document, I also made sure to pay a particular attention to the collaborative aspect. I chose to work with the InDesign software for the use of paragraph styles. This approach facilitates the collaboration and makes the work easy to rework the document.

HOURS WORKED

The summer semester lasted only 7 weeks so the weekly hours by week are multiplied by two. I followed the timeline in mu proposal for the work in the lab and I worked 9 to 10 hours per week in the lab - sometimes for an entire day and sometimes for two half-days. On the 7-11 June week, I had to travel to my home town so I did not work in the lab but I worked remotely using my laptop. I also worked two entire days in the lab the week after (16 and 17 June).

Regarding the work at home, I was supposed to do 9 to 10 hours a week plus 2 hours for at Hexagram. In the first part of the semester, I was more working on zotero and the curriculum, plus the Hexagram hours on the Jacquard loom project. In the last weeks, Skawennati was on vacation so that allowed me to focus on the dress project. I did at least 12 hours a week at home during the 7 weeks of my second independent study.

WHY IS THE INDEPENDANT STUDY IMPORTANT

My Independent Study is very important to me. First of all, it allowed me to meet many influential people in my domain. I find that a good network of contacts is a great tool to start off a career. It makes my Independent Study a step closer towards the job market. These contacts can certainly become a source of help. I also thought of it as an interesting occasion to present my work as well as to share my knowledge with new people. It is very important to me to have different opinions about my work as well as constructive feedbacks. Also, my time spent at Obx Labs allowed me to enter into the Hexagram Research Institute and have access to the material offered there.

The textile projects were notably creative. The integration of a new creative media into my artistic approach has brought a new perspective for working at the style research stage as well as at the development of the style. This experience has undoubtedly been very beneficial in the context of my degree as well as my personal development.

WHAT WORKED

In my opinion, the aspect that worked best was the orientation of my projects towards the textile aspect. It a positive experience for me to work on a project so close to me, while using my knowledge already to further my typographic experimentation. Also it was motivating to work on something never exploited by other Mr. Softie users before. I used Mr. Softie not to obtain a screen-base result nor a paper result but an object. It was a great challenge for me! Following a formation on how to use the Computerized Jacquard Loom was very useful to me. It gave me a new tool to my future textiles projects.

The coordination of these projects with the work in the lab also went well. Since it was difficult to work the textile, I maximized my hours working at the lab by concentrating my work there on projects, like Zotero and the collaborative work with Skawennati, that required a computer.

WHAT DIDN'T WORK

Though the textile aspect was a beneficial experience for the most part, it presented a big challenge timewise. Like I said in my Independent Study I "If I was to do it over again, I would start this project at the beginning of the semester to give me enough time to completely finish the work". Remembering this, I am happy I decided to start my Independent study II at the beginning of the summer. That allowed me to continue working on projects till the August 16th. It worked out well since I was done my projects by August 16th but we have to consider the extra hours I put in - I would not have made it by only working the hours of the Independent Study. For me it does not really matters because I enjoyed working on the projects and I am extremely happy with the final result. And I have two greats textiles project to add in my curriculum.

SUPPLEMENTS

Bibliography

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Other reference material

<http://www.obxlabs.net>
<http://hexagram.concordia.ca>
<http://www.zotero.org/support>
<http://www.mrssoftie.net/help>
<http://www.wasatch.com/support.html>
<http://www.pointcarre.com/>
<http://www.dafont.com>
<http://www.stereo-type.net>
<http://new.myfonts.com>
<http://typophile.com>

DOCUMENTATION (continued)

TEXTILE PATTERNS



ILLUSTRATION OF THE “QUEEN DRESS” (déformation typographique)





Independent Study 2
with Jason Lewis