



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

school of design digest

Graduation Issue
Sept 25



Introduction

This special edition of our Digest marks a milestone moment for the **Class of 2025**. Over the past months, our students have brought their ideas to life through the **Degree Show**, represented the School at **Graduate Fashion Week**, and received recognition through prestigious **undergraduate and industry awards**.

Most importantly, in July, we gathered as a community to celebrate their **graduation**. It was a day that captured the spirit of the School of Design: **creative, collaborative, and forward-looking**.

In the pages that follow, you'll find highlights from the **Degree Show**, student successes at **Graduate Fashion Week**, recognition of **award-winning work**, and snapshots from **graduation itself**. Together, these moments tell the story of a talented, resilient, and ambitious graduating class.

On behalf of the **School of Design**, we wish our new graduates every success as they take their next steps, and we look forward to welcoming them back as part of our growing alumni community.



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Degree Show

01

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DEGREE
SHOW

25

6 – 16 JUNE

2025 Degree Show

Final Year Exhibition

On Friday, 6th June, we launched the **School of Design Degree Show 2025** with an opening night that brought together students, staff, families, and friends to celebrate the creativity and achievements of our final-year students.

The exhibition brought together works across **BA Art & Design, BA Fashion Design, BA Fashion Design Innovation, BA Fashion Marketing, BA Graphic & Communication Design, and BA Sustainable Fashion**. From bold concepts to sustainable solutions, the show showcased how design can address today's challenges while envisioning tomorrow's possibilities.

This year's showcase reflected themes that run throughout our School, from sustainability and innovation to identity, technology, and culture. The opening night offered a chance not only to view the work but also to hear from the students themselves about the ideas and processes behind their final projects.

Reflecting on the exhibition, **Professor Maria Lonsdale**, Head of School, said:



Their works offer insights into their storied experiences at the School of Design, as well as shining glimpses of a future they will shortly forge beyond our walls.

Alongside this, our students shared their own reflections on the process of bringing their final projects to life:

“ Exploration with textile development really helped this project—if I hadn’t done that, I wouldn’t have been able to make this. The highlight of completing it was getting to see it come to life on the model.

Kelly Cumberland
BA Fashion Design Innovation

“ The highlight is always when you come to actually designing, because you see everything come together. I did loads of different prints, laser engraving, and embroidery, so it was really great to see all that come together into a final collection. It was really rewarding.

Tess Gebbie
BA Fashion Design

“ I really enjoyed the final project just letting you do whatever you were interested in and then you could explore things you hadn’t done already which was fun.

Ben Coar
BA Graphic & Communication Design

“

In the starting stages, it's very exciting, but you always think, is this going to work? Having that clear-cut path of focusing on the brief, the development, it really gets you to focus on what you're doing and have a clear idea. By the time I had started putting the finished product together, I was very pleased

Jermaine Kumi

BA Graphic & Communication Design

“

Our course is so small, which meant the module leaders knew our projects, what our interests were, and what our strengths were. That personal support made it easy to bounce off ideas and that was really helpful

Fionn O'Neill

BA Sustainable Fashion

For those who could not attend in person, the work remains available to view online at our [Degree Show website](#), ensuring the creativity of the Class of 2025 can continue to be celebrated and shared.

Student Awards



2025 FUAM Graduate Art Prize exhibition

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of our students at the **FUAM Graduate Art Prize 2025**, now in its 13th year. This annual exhibition at **The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery** showcases outstanding emerging talent from across the **University of Leeds**.

The School of Design is proud to have two students among this year's four finalists: **Alexandra Rosenthal (BA Art & Design)** and **Hannah Slater (BA Art & Design)**. Their innovative and thought-provoking work represents the creativity, skill, and ambition nurtured within the School. Alexandra explores the relationship between architecture and human identity, while Hannah reimagines natural rock formations through bold design concepts.

The **FUAM Graduate Art Prize** provides a valuable platform for our graduates, offering professional exposure to curators, critics, and the wider public. We are thrilled to see their work recognised alongside peers in Fine Art and look forward to celebrating their continued success as the judges select the overall winner and visitors vote for the People's Choice Award.

Read more about FUMA [here](#).

2025 Undergraduate Awards

We are proud to celebrate the outstanding **achievements of our undergraduate students**, whose creativity, commitment, and talent have been recognised through this year's awards.

Kisby Prize – Kitty Carr-Lake, BA Fashion Design Innovation

Best undergraduate student in the area of fashion and textiles.



Crabtree Nomination – Martha Hursthouse, BSc Textile Innovation & Sustainability

Awarded to the highest achieving Level 1 undergraduate student in the school.

Peter Ryley Award – Milena Jones, BA Fashion Design

For the student who, in the opinion of the examinations committee, has made the greatest effort to improve their performance.

The School of Design Prize

Recognising the best undergraduate show or project.

1st Prize – Ella Garcia De Lago, BA Fashion Design

2nd Prize – Phoebe Winterburn, BA Fashion Marketing

Tibor Reich Prize – India Jameson, BA Art and Design

For the most innovative use of colour or colour theory in a final undergraduate project.



Graduate Fashion Week

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Graduate Fashion Week

2025 Awards Winners

We are thrilled to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students at **Graduate Fashion Week 2025**, held at the iconic **Truman Brewery in London**.

The **School of Design** was delighted to again participate in this globally renowned event, which champions the next generation of creative talent and innovation in the fashion industry.

This year's GFW offered invaluable opportunities for all our participating students, who benefited from extensive exposure and direct feedback from **key industry representatives**. Throughout the event, our stand attracted attention from recruiters and buyers from **Debenhams, Boden, M&S, NEXT, River Island, H&M, ASOS, Everly Studio** and many other respected retailers and suppliers. Their feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing admiration for the professionalism, creativity, and innovation in our students' portfolios. Our graduates impressed audiences, recruiters, and industry leaders with their portfolios, catwalk collections, and forward-thinking concepts.

From bold design innovation to thoughtful marketing strategies, the talent on display from our students was exceptional.

We are proud to announce several major successes for our students at this year's event:

Kitty Carr-Lake , BA Fashion Design Innovation
Winner of the Debenhams Catwalk to Commercial Award

Kitty's confident and contemporary collection caught the judges' attention for its creativity and market potential. She will now begin a paid year-long internship with Debenhams, where her collection will be produced and sold on debenhams.com.



Amber Dean , BA Fashion Design
Winner of the Childrenswear Award

Amber's imaginative collection, full of playful prints, bold colours, and layered silhouettes, beautifully captured the essence of childhood, leaving a lasting impression on the judging panel.



Milena Jones and Tess Gebbie, BA Fashion Design
Offered two-week internships with Everly Studio

Following strong presentations at GFW, both students impressed industry professionals and secured valuable internships at fashion suppliers Everly Studio.



We are also very happy to have had the following students selected & shortlisted by GFW:

- **GFW Class of 2025 - Caitlin Galloway**
- **Talent of Tomorrow 2025 photoshoot - Amy Pullen & Tess Gebbie**
- **Debenhams Catwalk Show - Abbie Elder, Amy Pullen, JohnOswald Crichton and Kitty Carr-Lake**
- **Menswear Catwalk Show - Eleanor Carter**

Graduate Fashion Week

2025 Awards Shortlist

BA Fashion Design:

- Fashion Innovation Award – **Ella Garcia de Lago**
- Considered Fashion Award – **Amber Dean**
- Childrenswear Award – **Aimee Charnley, Amber Dean**
- Fashion Portfolio Award – **Ella Garcia de Lago Weldon**
- Creative Pattern Cutting Award – **Tess Gebbie**
- Digital Fashion Award supported by CLO Virtual Fashion – **JohnOswald Crichton**

BA Sustainable Fashion:

- Digital Fashion Media Award - **Tanaya Rayna**

BA Fashion Marketing:

- Culture & Heritage Award (Non-Design) – **Emma Correia De Almeida**
- Fashion Communication Portfolio Award – **Olivia Bird**
- Fashion Marketing Award – **Elsa Grainger-Hull**
- Fashion Marketing Award – **Keira Doherty**



Summer Graduation

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2025 Summer Graduation

In July, we came together to celebrate the achievements of the **School of Design Class of 2025** at our Graduation ceremony. The day brought students, families, and staff together to recognise years of hard work, creativity, and dedication.

Graduates crossed the stage in front of proud family and friends, marking the end of their studies and the beginning of the next stage in their journeys. It was also a chance for staff and peers to reflect on the contributions students have made to the School of Design, both academically and within the wider community.

We extend our warmest congratulations to all of our graduates and look forward to seeing where your skills, ideas, and ambition take you next.

As part of the celebrations, our graduates shared their favourite aspects of studying at the School of Design. Here are some of their reflections:

“ I like the variety of the design we did, we did a bit of animation, a bit of everything so you get a real feel for design as a whole so you can pick what you want to specialise in a bit more.

Georgia Spencer
BA Graphic & Communication Design

“

I loved the collection development, being able to develop a collection that had all my ideas, I could pick the brand that I wanted to do and the concept and it could be a creative journey that I could explore.

JohnOswald Crichton

BA Fashion Design and Innovation

“

I really loved construction and the making and sewing. the technicians were really great.

Tess Gebbie

BA Fashion Design

“

I feel like the variety of modules that we did allowed us to test our interests and shape how we wanted our degree to be.

Olivia Bird

BA Fashion Marketing

“

One of my favourite elements was that we got to use the lab a lot, and we got to experiment with a lot of fabrics and test a lot of clothes and garments for durability. I think that hands on experience was nice to get to do.

Tanaya Rayna

BA Sustainable Fashion

“ It was a good degree, I really enjoyed it and met some great friends and good staff.

Ella White
BA Art & Design

“ It’s been very good, fantastic. I’ve had great support from my professors and fellow PGR and enjoyed my time in Leeds for the 3 years I was here.

Sascha Hein
PHD Computational Colour Science



