

...in 10 Questions



Dennic Lo

PATHWAY LEADER
FOR FASHION
DESIGN

Dennic graduated with a MA from the Royal College of Art Fashion Womenswear. Dennic has taught at some of the top London Fashion Colleges, including the Royal College of Art, and held a senior course leading position at UAL. Dennic also held the position of Head of Product Development and Pattern Cutting at ASOS.com

What is your motto or personal mantra?

You must know the rules to break the rules, don't be afraid to learn very simple, very basic skills and consolidate your basic knowledge first.

What is your creative specialism?

Pattern Cutting and construction; I am a 'pattern cutting designer' I rely on 3-dimensional shapes to design and explore.

What attracted you to this creative practice?

As a design student I used to struggle at drawing. One day, I started to draw from what I had made, and more and more ideas came to being. From then on everything fell into place.

Who inspired you in this direction and why?

A long time ago, I watched a documentary about John Galliano. He was talking about making clothes and cutting clothes by demonstrating on a white napkin. It was so simple yet magical. It made a lot of sense as all designers should also know about materials and how they can (or cannot) help you to materialise what you want to do.

What is the best advice you were ever given, who did it come from?

One of the great technical tutors, Usha Doshi, at RCA taught me that there is no WRONG in design, every individual picks their own version, and it needs to feel right... that's all.

How do you nurture young talent?

By giving students the confidence to make mistakes as making mistakes is the best way to learn. Everything in art and design should be a work-in-progress. Teach students to never be afraid to disagree and ask questions!

What does a typical day look like for you and what are you currently working on?

I always take a register at 9.30am and 1.30pm, I find this so important because it gives me an idea of how many students I will be working with. So when I teach I can try to pre-arrange what to share; sometimes individually sometimes in small groups. When I finish, I look forward to the next day, delivering something inspiring and interesting again to the students. I am currently focussed on planning a collaborative unit at the start of the new academic year!

Who is your favourite designer and why?

Issey Miyake. "Fashion is Time" and this is evidenced in what he has been producing since 1970's. Every product/garment he designs has a narrative of what is happening in the World around us, from sub-culture to sustainability. At the moment, Issey Miyake's 1325 collection is probably the only successful and commercially viable collection on a global scale, which is entirely made by recycled polyester from PET bottles.

What's the best professional compliment you have ever received?

That I work hard! I take a lot of pride in what I do.

What do you enjoy most about teaching?

Working with the new generation who are going to inherit our industry and our world in the very near future. Therefore, we have to do a good job!