

PHOEBE ENGLISH

JOY + SORROW

Joy and Sorrow

A grey day
A bright day

The vortex spirals

Gravity

Going down

Duality

Lean in
Lean out

Surrender

separate and together
alone and united

curvaceous cloud form

a portal

to

a trio

A resplendent gold from the other side of the universe
Fragments of the past leading to fragments of the future

High vis
Graphic lines
Both
Broken
And continual
For brand new eyes
Ingredients, Components, Process

Foraged Fabric

We continue with our use of 'foraged' or reclaimed fabrics. Utilising textile leftovers, in their various guises (scraps, over ordered quantities, left overs, surplus and 'faulty') from a range of U.K. textile companies. We are slowly building an 'alternative supplier' database of useful 'waste' - offering our creative output as a 'using up' or 'tidying up' endeavour.

The studio location progressively becomes a site of active recycling and repurposing.

Plant Colour

As we move further away from including synthetic-based components in our clothing, we have gravitated toward exploring colour from natural origins...

Mugwort Pewter Green
hand collected Mugwort from regional UK locations

Coreopsis Gold
Coreopsis flowers harvested as a dye crop on the Isle of Guernsey

Rose Madder
Madder root powder with chalk

Inky Logwood
Logwood extract with hand collected oak galls

Surface and Textile

A variety of patchworks from fine leaning strips that spiral wrapping around the body
Bold monochrome 'broken' patchworks in soft silks and minimal half and half pieces where the front and back of the garment lean around towards each other
Hand silkscreen printing with natural plant based ingredients for the first time, using madder root to find a rosy hue in bold graphic stripes printed in opposing directions
Puckered and pinched seams on washed and dyed garments disrupt otherwise slinky surfaces

Form and Construction

Spiral pattern cutting where seams proceed around the periphery of the body in a continuous sloping line, leaning at a 35-degree angle and travelling downwards
Cloud formations curve and meander in willowing lines and structured forms in stiff cotton, softer dyed silks and crisp polycotton, through shirts, trousers and cocooning coats
Loose boxy forms in oversized wide-leg trousers and t-shirt shapes engulf the body

Collaboration

Phoebe English and Lavenham

This Phoebe English and Lavenham collection is a collaboration between the two British brands. Lavenham is known for its expertise in quilted outerwear and works with predominantly British cloth manufacturers, renowned for their high quality and hardworking fabrics. Every fit-for-purpose piece is made on site in the Lavenham factory, based in Suffolk.

The collaboration is formed of a selection of limited edition garments and accessories that have been responsibly produced within the UK. These garments and accessories have been developed in order that all the components have as minimal negative environmental impact as possible. The outerwear is constructed with textile quilting that builds on the heritage design of the Lavenham brand using a cross and plus quilting design. The quilting is produced using fully traceable British wool wadding for the first time, exclusively to this collaboration, that is safe to biodegrade back into the soil, unlike standard wadding. HD woolkeepers sourced the wool from the locality of the Lavenham factory, rooting the pieces in the area surrounding the Lavenham village in Suffolk itself. Wool wadding is warm when it is cool, and cooling when it is warm, the material is natural and breathable, creating a wadding that brings many unique properties to the outerwear pieces. This is also a first in terms of the construction: creating wadding that is from natural sources and is fully traceable, regional and biodegradable back into the soil. The garments are constructed with patchworked deadstock fabrics in a limited edition quantity, the deadstock creates a subtle patchworked surface design with hues of navy and black.

The bags are created from over quilting scrap trials from the Lavenham factory and each bag is therefore unique to itself. Different quilting trials create a variety of patterns throughout the collection. The bags are designed to be adjustable by the wearer with adjustable straps and ties creating a bag that can be many shapes and sizes with straps that also can be various lengths. The over quilting alludes to the quilting heritage of the Lavenham brand and the bags are assembled from trials that we consider precious textile resources.