

**Images from Eternally Yours at Somerset House**, an inspiring free exhibition exploring ideas around care, repair and healing, summer 2022.

<https://www.somersetshouse.org.uk/whats-on/eternally-yours/>

## *Towards a Hopeful Healing*

What lessons can repair teach us as we move towards an uncertain future? Just as many of us have found paths through the experience of the pandemic lockdown by reassessing our relationships and ways of life – finding value in small things, slowness, time, nature, memories, and stories – perhaps the way out of the troubles we face can be found in the unexpectedly hopeful and healing.

Acts of care and repair are a way of conferring meaning and value, not only on the things we use, wear and love, but also on our own lives and the life of our planet. Repair can trigger and link to many things, not least to perceptions of trauma, urgency and catastrophe, but it also represents care, healing and, above all, hope. It can act as a palimpsest, a reminder of what has gone before, but it also connects us to the things that are to come. As a provocation, repair not only asks that we look after ourselves and the world around us, but it also challenges us to think deeply about how we approach our collective future.





*Kintsugi - the art of mending ceramics with gold.*



*Decorative wood repairs*



## Upcycling

*Below: crutches and a can into lamps*

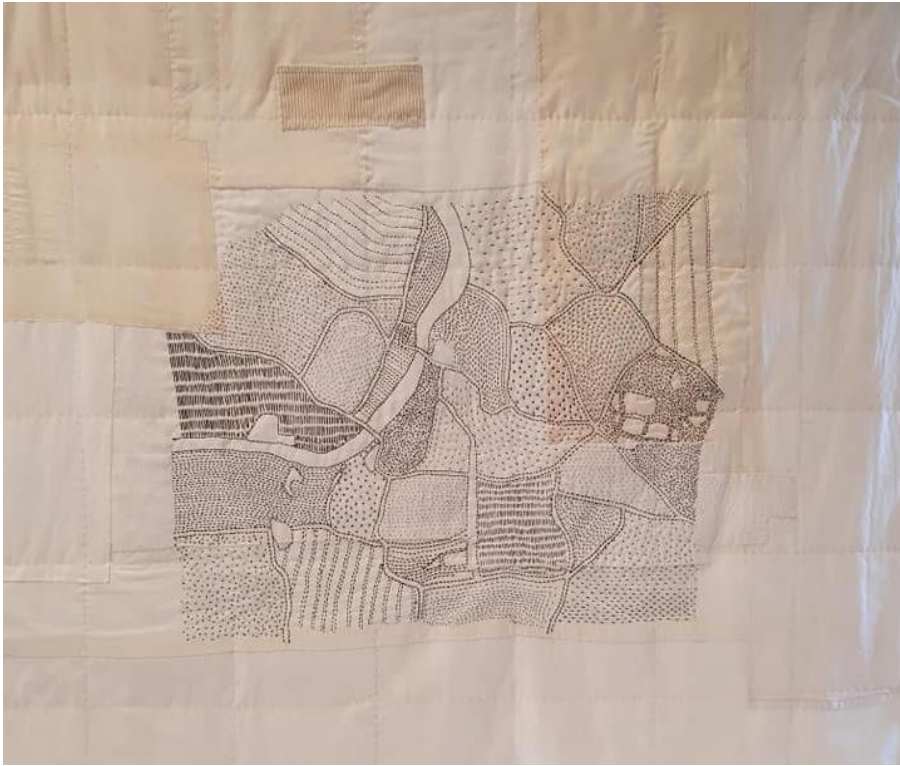


*Above: a visibly repaired jumper dresses up a wooden chair.*

*Below: a chair into a sledge*





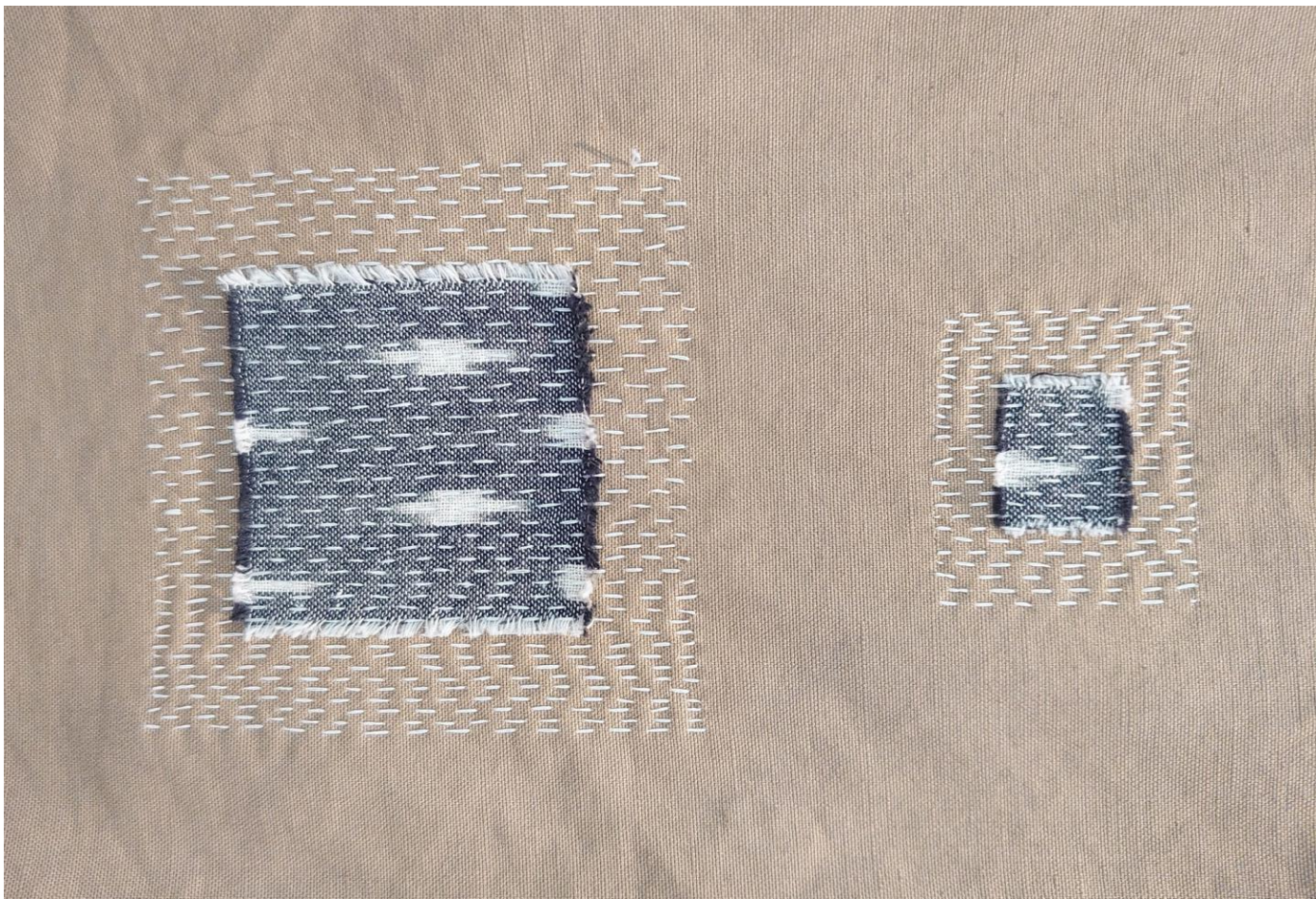


*Fabric remnants into a quilted wall hanging and map*

## Visible repairs











*Embroidery covering small stains*







**Second Year BA Product and Furniture Design**  
***Right To Repair Studio Project***  
**Kingston School of Art, Kingston University, 2022**

Second Year students on the BA Product and Furniture Design course at Kingston University were asked by their tutor Carl Clerkin to respond to the new Right to Repair legislation, a new law aimed at tackling e-waste and built-in obsolescence in consumer electronics. While these laws are limited to some products (refrigerators, dishwashers, washing machines, and televisions) and are concerned with manufacturers allowing consumers to repair their products independently, they are, perhaps, the first small step towards the design of more sustainable products. Most products today are still designed to be manufactured at the lowest cost, offer a limited lifespan, and are usually disposed of in landfill. In responding to the brief, students were asked how they might change this culture and were tasked with developing new thinking and new solutions which, in the long term, could change the buying behaviours, attitudes and perhaps even the rituals of the consumer.



# The Repair Shop

In consumer-driven societies, repair can sometimes seem like a luxury rather than a necessity. Yet, while our throwaway culture encourages the design of things that cannot be easily or cheaply repaired, the skills of the repairer are less disposable. As well as honing their craft, problem-solving, invention and innovation are key skills that contribute to their expertise. But repairers also perform an invaluable service as caretakers of our lives and our society, restoring and remaking the things we love.

While the current renaissance in repair culture may be driven by a nostalgia for a bygone age of home-spun craft and 'make do and mend', repair shops and services are a vital part of taking responsibility for the excessive levels of waste we generate.

