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A look into the experience between the School of Architecture Art and Design and the School of Engineering

The Degree in Visual Arts at the School of Architecture, Art and Design of the University of Minho is in its infancy, as it only started in 2018. At its genesis was the idea to create something unique, anchored in the territory – Guimarães – It made perfect sense to create a partnership with the School of Engineering, articulating a relationship with the industries of textiles and of polymers. Guimarães is a city that exudes its history, cultural, geographical and social heritage, particularly in the field of textiles and industry. What we intend to share is the complete compendium of these fields and disciplines. this universe.

To understand a little about the genesis of the course, it is necessary to return to the inauguration of it is necessary to mention that it was in this universe, that CONTEXTILE in was born in 2012. Contemporary textile art was problematized and out of this challenge, our degree in visual arts, emerged at an opportune moment.

In the second semester of the first year of the course, in 2018/19, we started to work on the Curricular Unit – Technology II, which is taught by three professors – a textile artist, a textile engineer and a polymer engineer. In the following year 2019/20, progress was made with the Curricular Unit – Technology IV shared with the same group of people, in a continuous process, deepening the ideas and subjects started in the previous year and with the aim of participating in the following CONTEXTILE Biennial.

This experience has been enriching year after year. Participation in CONTEXTILE 2020, was a key milestone. The achievement took place in the middle of the pandemic under the thematic title of "Places of memory" [1]. CONTEXTILE enabled us to expand the classroom to the urban and family environment.

The context of the pandemic accentuated this need to expand the classroom to the family environment where each person (teachers and students) experimented in their homes on materials and techniques with which TEXTILE is verbalised and materialised.

Some of the approaches to artisanal dyeing processes that the pandemic brought, such as dyeing with natural dyes, the exploration of pigments for dyeing and eco-printing, have enriched the Curricular programme, along with industrial technologies. This result was so positive for us that it became an idea for us to keep embedded In the Curricular.

Figure 2 – Rafaela Carolina, 2020; Techniques – Natural printing "Eco-Print".

Figure 3 – Rafaela Carolina, 2020 – Techniques – Natural dyeing; Block printing.

The transdisciplinarity of the course, promoted by the semester coordination, allows us to take advantage of the contents taught in the other Curricular Units, and consequently leads students to explore the technologies taught more deeply.

Figure 4 – Adriana Oliveira.

Left – Techniques – Natural dyeing (saffron); Textile Collages; Sewing; Interception UC Desenho III.

Right – Techniques – Natural dyeing (red berries); Textile Collages; Embroidery.

Figure 1 – Preparing the Contextile2020 project exhibitions.

This year we participated in Contextile 2022 with the collective work "Manta Estórias" because we have already collected some stories that we wanted to tell you [2]. We bring them from here and there, from Azurém [1], from IDEGUI [2], from the street, from friends, family and strangers. All together, one next to the other, "hanging on clotheslines" in the structure of the new house/school.

Figure 5 – Preparing the Contextile2022 project exhibition "Manta Estórias" 2022 – collective work Degree in Visual Arts EAADUM.

We invite you to visit our school and share your story, where the Couros river flows, between walls with the historic Teatro Jordão, and an old mechanic garage. A story is recovered where a new sharing space grows, half walls of a school and a neighbourhood. We are just arriving and we promise to stay!

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[1] Minho University Campus of Azurém in Guimarães where the main building of the School of Architecture Art and Design and the School of Engineering are located

[2] IDEGUI – Design Institute of Guimarães – Minho University Campus of Couros

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References:
[1] Escola de Arquitetura da Universidade do Minho, Artes Visuais. Lugares de Memória, Interdiscursos de um território têxtil. Catálogo Contextile 2020.
[2] Escola de Arquitetura, Arte e Design, Artes Visuais, Universidade do Minho. Emergências e Educação e Criação Têxtil. Catálogo Contextile 2022.