Adornment - Final Product Process and Evaluation

Evaluation of Final Product

As part of the design process of jewellery technology, it is important to evaluate not only our process, but also our **product.** This is imperative in determining the success of my product, which is an African inspired necklace. Evaluating a design is a necessary part of the design process. This process will help me measure my skills and understanding of jewellery technology, things that could be changed, how well I work individually and how I would approach something like this again in the future. I will evaluate different aspects of the design and parts of the process that led to it. This will include the

- Purpose of my work
- Aesthetics
- Materials and finish
- Improvements to be made

Evidence of analysing the design brief, process and production

Purpose of My Work

This design process, like many successful design process's, included a design brief that I was required to analyse I evaluate and follow throughout the process. I needed to consider this during the design and development of my end product so that it was a success and followed course guidelines. The design brief specifically stated that the purpose of our work was to 'design, produce and evaluate a piece of adornment using a culture as inspiration'. Upon analysing this brief as a class we discovered that the design brief was saying that we have the choice of designing for whomever we want and that we will have to select a particular culture with notable jewellery styles and source our products from this. It also meant that we needed to consider carefully what is meaningful to us in terms of expression and adorning ourselves. We also had the opportunity to think about what kinds of jewellery we like and the different cultures around the world that we respect and are inspired by generally. The brief also stated that we would be

working with resin or silver so therefore our work plays the role of a resin/ silver jewellery piece. Our work also has the purpose of culminating a number of different materials including copper, fabric and beads to create a unique and diverse product. The brief also stated that the product will include the elements and principles of design which are:

- Elements of design–Line, Colour, Shape, Texture (visual arts), Space, Form
- Principles of Design- Unity, Point, Line, and Plane (PLP), Balance, Hierarchy, Scale, Dominance, Similarity and Contrast, Movement Rhythm/Pattern

The main purpose of my work is to help me develop my skills in jewellery technology and my understanding of adornment. My work with familiarise me more with the design process, but in a different field of work which will challenge me. As part of developing my skills, the design brief states: 'You are required to use a minimum of three techniques in your design. These may include drilling, soldering, distressing, cutting, sanding and/or polishing'. My work needs to show a balance of these techniques to be successful. My work has the purpose of not having silver pieces that go over the silver restriction of 6cmX6cm. As young designers, our work needs to be creative in terms of style and presentation but most importantly, innovative Our work needs to display our own unique points of view on our particular culture and our ideas about adornment in our society today. With every design you find that they all have the purpose of being functional, aesthetically pleasing, in the right form, high quality, durable, environmentally friendly (an ever increasing issue) and ethical/ abiding by laws. My necklace will have the purpose of adorning its wearer and pleasing the wearer with its aesthetic appeal and functionality. It must give the vibe

Describes expectations and requirements of the design product

Comprehensively describes a range of design principles needed to be considered

of the chosen culture, but not a clichéd point of view.

Overall, the purpose of our work was to of course be a high quality, functional product, but to also teach us a number of things about jewellery technology. Being under the time constraint of 14 weeks really made us focused on our work and what we had to learn in order to produce a successful jewellery piece. By having to include techniques that we haven't really covered before in our work, introduced us into a more mature side of jewellery technology, and how many products are made for a commercial market. It also had the purpose of stressing the importance of considering our inspiration/theme when designing, producing and evaluating. My necklace has fulfilled its purpose by abiding by the design brief and my own needs/wants. It adorns me well because it is aesthetically pleasing, functional and in scale so it sits well around my neck. I have used the appropriate amount of silver and it has been finished in time to be handed in for assessment. I have used more than three techniques and I have most definitely developed my skills in silver/resin work. The product looks professional and is ready to wear so it therefore fulfils its purpose.

Evaluation and justification of design solution in terms of function and aesthetics

Aesthetics
Determining and evaluating the aesthetic appeal of a product is very important as it lets designers know if it is successful and whether they could change something for another project they undertake. We need to consider the form, colour/theme, texture, proportions, style and layout of our final product so we can get an accurate answer to whether it's aesthetically pleasing and therefore a success, and whether any improvements are required. In this project, I need to consider the aesthetic appeal of all aspects of my jewellery piece.

On the whole my product is very successful when it comes to aesthetic appeal. The combination of the different elements of form, colour/ theme, texture, proportions, style and layout have helped to produce a successful product The base of this successful design is the innovative design/idea for the product. When I started this design process I told myself that I wanted to design and produce a piece of jewellery that is totally unique and new to all of the other jewellery out there. I knew that if I used my African culture as an inspiration whilst still staying true to myself, that I could make a necklace that truly is surprising and different. The fact is you don't see many designs out there utilising fake flower petals in jewellery. This product has an interesting form, taking on different shapes each time you look at it and each time you look at it from a different perspective. The colours are wildly interesting making use of bright oranges, deep maroons, rustic gold's, darker reds and deeper oranges as well to create contrast, but at the same time cohesion. The colours relate well to the powerful colours seen in African jewellery and really give the wearer the flair that Africans bring to their culture. The theme is also a main reason why this product is so successful aesthetically. Often people become stuck with the idea of African jewellery being about beads, but my design challenges this and highlights the unique and often disregarded parts of the African culture and African countries. I have highlighted the idea of African flowers,

Analysis of colour combination relating to chosen culture

Personal evaluation of aesthetics and influence of culture

which are all very bright and interesting to study. The twisted rope on my necklace represents not only the different ropes used in their jewellery, but also the diversity found in their culture. The ropes are twisted together and they represent the different people of Africa, different jewellery and techniques, and most importantly the combination of traditional African styles, with newer more modem styles.

Justifies materials and techniques, depicting the African culture through the elements used

In addition, the texture of the product is very balanced. On the necklace there is a combination of sharp and softer shapes/textures that create a powerful statement piece of jewellery. There is the sharper texture in the pointy fake birds of paradise petals which are light and dark orange. They stick out and decrease in size working towards the back of the necklace and create interesting and contrasting lines when viewed from different angles. The softer texture is found in the flower petals underneath the birds of paradise so that the design is balanced. They create flow between these sharper shapes, and the twisted/curvy texture of the rope. The actual texture when you touch the necklace is diverse and creates great interest. The petals also manage to stay in proportion with each other i.e. the decreasing sizes of the petals as you head towards the back of the necklace. If these were all the same, then the design would not work as well. The necklace in general is in proportion with the human state, sitting easily on my neck. The style is young, vibrant and modern with good flow and has been laid out well so that the design makes sense when you wear it. My product could be improved by making the underside of the necklace a little neater so that it looks more professional and appealing to the user. I may also improve it by removing more of the scratches on the silver and polishing it a little more. This will create greater aesthetic appeal and product success.

Comprehensive analysis of different aspects of design and evaluation of final product

Materials and Finish

Evaluating the materials and finish of my product is also very important in determining its overall success. I feel that my jewellery piece has been well finished as I have used effective techniques, tools and materials along with careful planning and analysis and am now confident in its functioning capabilities as well its quality standard.

Likewise, I have used very interesting and high quality materials that give it a professional and authentic look. The materials provided to me were excellent and exactly what I was looking for. The silver sheets provided by the school were more than adequate to achieve my design. Having the silver in sheet form not only allowed us to think more creatively about our design, but also allowed us to work on a form of silver relatively easy to cut out/shape. The tools provided were also very helpful but a few more of each would have helped speed up the waiting process. We were also provided with resin, or more the means to make resin, and the process of working with it in terms of creating our designs was very easy and relatively error free. We were also given access to materials from the textiles technology room which was helpful

Analysis of material used and of the processes undertaken

for some, although the range was not very large. All together, the materials provided were more than enough to get our work done and achieve our designs. The finish on my product is very professional, buffed and polished well considering the amount of time I had near the end. During the shaping process I encountered a few problems getting the shape I wanted out of my silver as a number of scratches were left on the silver that I was not able to buff out. I do not mind this though at all as it gives my design a more rugged/rustic look which only adds to my theme/style. The finish of my actual necklace is also of high quality as I spent a long time securing things in place. I also decided to use nylon thread when I was sewing so that you could not see the stitches, which gives it a more professional look.

Improvements

It is also important, as a part of the evaluation process, to analyse any improvements that could be made on your product, skills and techniques. This provides the opportunity to improve for the future, and achieve higher and higher results. As stated earlier, I would have liked to, if I had the chance, to improve the overall finish on my two silver pieces as there are still a few scratches on them. I would also like to get the pieces to be a little more square in shape and make the one with a bent hoop, straight. This unfortunately happened whilst I was buffing. I would also like to make the silver a little more polished ready for presentation. I am also very happy with the way the sewn part of my design turned out, however I would like to improve the bottom side of the necklace by maybe covering it all, not just the top strip. I could also improve a number of skills and techniques. The main ones I would like to improve upon associate directly with metalwork/jewellery technology i.e. soldering, buffing and sanding. I could improve these of course by more practice, but I could also go out and observe other jewellery pieces which have used these techniques/skills as well as researching them online to truly understand their uses and/or processes if I am still unfamiliar. Finally I would like to improve my time management skills a little more as I struggled in particular with this task in terms of getting the amount of work done which I required in a particular lesson. I would also like to and improve my skills in using resin as I did not have any resin on my final product and therefore did not get the opportunity to practice the skills I had learnt earlier on in the experimentation process.

Analysis of process and future improvements

Critical evaluation of skills and techniques

Final Evaluation of Process

As a designer, it is important to evaluate not only our product, but also the process in which we took to develop our product. In this unit of work, I have studied the technology of metalwork/jewellery (including resin) in order to create one end product. My final product is an African inspired necklace Through this process I have:

- Developed a number of skills
- Conducted research
- Experimented with finishing and decoration techniques
- Involved in class work and discussion
- Analysed and managed my time
- Collaborated with other students
- Studied and used the safety processes involved in working in the jewellery technology room and the safety precautions required to be taken

It was highly important to incorporate each of these different elements into my process and analyse them thoroughly in order to produce a successful end product. I will analyse certain aspects further.

In addition, as this unit of work involved different areas of study, as many different tools and techniques had been introduced, I was required to develop certain skills and techniques in each field, an of which were highly important for the success of my end product.

Skill Development

Likewise, when developing skills and techniques in the jewellery room, it is also necessary to develop other work related skills. For our class to cooperate well and in a fair manner, everybody was required to learn skills to do with time management resources and respect for your other classmates. By conducting experiments such as the resin ring and silver ring experiments, I was also able to develop/practice my newly learnt skills in the jewellery room. These spanned over a number of different fields of tools and techniques as well materials that we were not too familiar with before this topic e.g. resin in jewellery. I was able to effectively develop my skills through research, teacher demonstrations, communicating with other students and experimenting. The skills I learnt relate mostly to the jewellery tools i.e. drill press, jeweller's saw, blowtorch, buffer machine, hammer and mandrel, and pliers. I am particularly happy with my progress in terms of developing these skills as I have not had any, or little, experience with these tool before this topic of work. In Year 9 I completed a wood technology unit of work where I had the opportunity to use a drill press. This drill press is quite similar to the one in the jewellery room so I was able to develop this particular skill beyond the others. On the whole, rate my skill level at an 8 out of 10 because there is always room for improvement and some skills I am still to perfect, in particular the newly learnt ones. The skills I have accumulate in this topic include:

- Cutting silver-This skill involved taking measurements of your finger if it was for a ring, or for the shape you want to cut out of the sheet metal. This skill also included drawing your shape onto the

Good description of skills development and experimentation with materials and tools and techniques

metal or pasting a cut out shape. For using the jeweller's saw, the skill also involved how to change a broken blade, what is Pepe lube and how to use it, the function of a V Peg and how to set it up with a G clamp and the appropriate area to do this (a clear space that is easy to work in). It also involved how to hold your piece whilst cutting, and the actual cutting technique which entailed starting the blade horizontal and slowly working into a vertical position with small, quick movements. The skill of using the metal clippers involved how to hold the clippers when working and how to cut and manoeuver the clippers into the desired position. Both of these also included the appropriate PPE skills in the work room.

- Annealing-This skill was very useful and essential in making my final product. It involves heating your metal with a blowtorch, quenching it and then being able to freely shape and bend your piece with pliers to your desired design. This skill involved gathering knowledge about heating metals i.e. melting points, so that the job would be done effectively and safely. You are also required to heat the whole piece evenly so that the metal retains a symmetrical look. This skill also highlighted the importance of using appropriate PPE and safety practices. This skill involved all of the preparation for annealing as well, including turning on the gas, lighting the blowtorch and using the copper tongs.
- Soldering-This skill involved using the blowtorch and a special metal called 'solder'. This skill was very new to me as it involved the joining of metal together. This skill involved learning how to use the flux, blowtorch, tweezers, solder pick and quenching dish of water. The skill also involved snipping solder to the appropriate size for the joining of two different bits of silver. Then flux was applied to specific area where the joining would occur. The solder was placed onto this are on top of the flux with tweezers. The piece of metal was then heated evenly until the solder 'flashes and flows' into the join. If the solder shifted at all during the process the solder pick could be used to keep it in place. The blowtorch would then be turned off on the silver would be lifted into the quenching dish with the copper tongs. Soldering was an essential part of producing my necklace as there were a lot of joins involved in the design. Making a tight join was also part of this skill if joins were required as this made the soldering more effective.
- Buffering/Finishing-This skill is highly important for any design when the designer has decided to use silver as a point of focus. This skill involves not only giving your silver a nice end look and shine, but also how to set up the buffer and the safety precautions involved. Setting up the buffer involves applying Tripoli and Rouge to the appropriate sides of the buffing machine. The skill of buffing involves the development of an effective positional technique of holding your silver/copper whilst it is being buffed. This was to not push too hard and buff on the lower quarter of the calico and cotton mops. The skill required as steady and even hand. The skill of finishing also involved filing. Another finishing skill was using the pickle to remove impurities from your silver before buffing.
- Shaping-This skill involved using pliers and the mandrel and hammer in order to shape my silver into the design I desired. Using

Explanation of skills and processes and linking to the making of the jewellery piece

pliers also entailed the skill of using the 'Z' grip to bend your silver into certain shapes (after annealing first). Using the mandrel and hammer entailed placing the silver (usually a ring) onto the mandrel which is clamped to a work bench and hammering dawn onto the silver to get a good circular shape. This skill was also very important for my final product as my design required a lot of shaping with the pliers to be done.

- Drilling-This skill was developed on the drill press in the jewellery room. This skill also requires the development of careful planning and measuring as to avoid error and acquire a successful result from the machine. Therefore, I had to measure where I wanted my holes to be drilled in my silver, mark the spots and set up the machine. I then lowered the drill whilst it was off to ensure that it lined up with my markings and then proceeded to drill the holes. This skill was very successful as you can see in my end product.
- Sanding/Using a Dremel-This skill was highly important in making my final product. The first skill was filing which involved selecting the appropriate file for the job, using the right technique i.e. knowing that the file only sands on the forward strokes as well as applying the right amount of pressure to get the job done. The sanding skill was similar i.e. selecting the appropriate sanding paper (400,800 and 1000), determining the appropriate amount of sanding that needs to be done and the amount of pressure that needs to be used. Sanding also involved using the dremel which is just a motorised and more efficient version of sanding. This involved selecting the appropriate dremel attachment, changing the attachment, the actual technique/skill of sanding with the dremel i.e. steadily sanding over problem areas ensuring that you do not over-sand the silver.
- Resin Work -Although I did not use this skill in my final product, I still found it very interesting to develop and learn about. Resin work involved choosing/making an appropriate mould, mixing the resin, dying it if necessary, pouring it into the mould, removing the resin shape from the mould once it was dry and finally sanding it. These things were done all the while ensuring the appropriate safety precautions were being followed.

Thorough analysis and justification of tools and techniques and processes undertaken

These skills contributed significantly to the success of my end product and allowed my process to also be a success, allowing me to learn new things and appreciate jewellery technology. As I was learning these skills, and also when I was planning my end product, I realised that I had to modify some of my ideas based on my skill level. I had to change some of my designs because of resource or time restraints and also whether it was possible to do something based on my skill involving design, e.g. creativity, annotating. In this case I could have improved my skills, by again practicing them and also making a test product (paper prototype) with what I have learnt in mind to help me understand it and how I would go about using it. Some things I had to alter included the shape of my silver pieces at the end of my necklace. Originally I wanted to make a more complicated circular shape, but I soon realised that this would be highly difficult and would consume what little time I had to work on my product as our lessons are only 55 minutes. I look forward to the day when my skills are developed

Reflection of the processes undertaken, with some critical analysis of modifying practices and processes

enough in metal work to achieve my original design or something of the same degree of difficulty. The circular shape would have been ideal but I made the decision to change it to the shape in my final design, which I am very happy with. Consequently, I am still very happy with my design in general despite these modifications.

Additionally I, utilised a number of skills relating to theory work and time management. During this topic worked out how to effectively work in the jewellery room due to the small spaces and limited resources because of the demand from so many girls in our class. I also developed good time management skills; i.e. planning out exactly what I have to do at the start of the lesson and working with others to get the work done more efficiently. I also tried to participate in class so that my learning could be enhanced which I could then translate into my product. This project I was forced to work up until the very last lesson as the jewellery room is limited in terms of resource availability to a class of my size. Often I would spend whole lessons where I would be waiting to go on a machine. For future reference, I think coordination between the girls needs to be enhanced so that everybody has a fair and equal amount of time working on their projects.

Justification of using resources and time management skills

In this process I also conducted further research for my project to be a success. I mainly researched, through our first two assignment tasks, African culture and the kind of jewellery found in Africa. I made a concept board and gathered a great deal of background knowledge through an essay on African jewellery. I was then able to produce my final sketches keeping mind aesthetics, function and quality, and creating a criteria for these design aspects in my head, which was based on my research. An inadvertent aid was comments made by peers in the work area of the jewellery technology room. These provided support and comments that allowed me to improve my product and make it more of a success overall.

Finishing/Decorating Techniques

As stated earlier, it is important as designers to not only evaluate our product, but also our process of design. Part of this evaluation includes the evaluation of finishing/decorating techniques learnt and used throughout the whole design process. I have used finishing/decorating techniques as a main focus of my necklace.

The finishing/decorating techniques I used on my necklace were mostly new to me and gave an interesting effect. The main finishing/decorating technique that I incorporated into my design was buffing. This skill was described earlier, and although there are still some scratches on my silver, I feel the buffing gives the product a professional and effective look. I also used decorating techniques such as sewing. This was mainly used for the front area of my necklace i.e. the twisted rope, the flower petals, as well as sewing my silver piece onto the end of the necklace. I also used painting as a decorating/finishing technique to paint some of my flower petals to create a dynamic design. I also used sanding as a finishing technique to remove ant shape edges on my silver and any leftover solder. This included using the dremel as well as

Detailed evaluation of the finishing and decorating techniques

polishing cloth as the very last step to finish the product to be handed in for assessment.

Safety Processes

For this project, it was important to follow a number of safety processes to ensure my product was a success without the expense of my own safety, as well as ensuring that my work area was safe to use, my classmates were safe and I was safe. Some safety practices in the jewellery room were:

- Pre-operational safety-The isolating switch should be in the OFF position when adjusting, repairing and maintaining a machine. The machine must be isolated from the main electricity supply when not in use. Guides should be in good condition and correctly adjusted. The work area should be clean and free of dust and other obstacles. Guards must be fitted, correctly adjusted and secured. Machines with blades, the blade should be sharp, undamaged and set correctly.
- Identifying Risks and Hazards-Identifying risks involved with working in the jewellery room such as: moving and rotating parts, movement of the work piece, inhalation of fumes and dust particles, squash, pinch and crush injuries.
- Operating Safety Precautions for all machines/tools-Ensure you have had instruction and training in the use of the machine. Always seek and gain supervisor approval to carry on with the machining procedure. Make sure you are the only person using the machine. All other persons must keep outside the safety zones at all times. Wear personal Protective Equipment to protect the eyes such as safety spectacles. Wear PPE to protect long hair. Do not wear loose clothing, wear an apron. Keep hands clear of the machining piece. If using a machine that requires it, hold on firmly with both hands. Check that all adjustments have been made before turning the machine on. Never directly touch metal after it has been heated, use copper tongs. If work area was recently used, use copper tongs to place metal in the work area. Do not leave the machine while it is running. Stop machines such as buffer as soon as unfamiliar noises are heard or vibrations that are felt or if work piece is lost. Stay with the machine until it has stopped after switching it off. Report any breakages immediately to the supervisor.

Detailed evaluation of safety procedures requirements

Grade Commentary

Casey has demonstrated extensive knowledge and understanding of design principles and consistently applied these to the making of the jewellery piece. Casey has designed and made a unique African-inspired necklace, demonstrating a very high level of skill development in producing a quality product which incorporates aesthetic and functional factors. Casey has comprehensively analysed and evaluated the processes undertaken and justified the use of a range of tools, materials and techniques used in the making of the jewellery piece. This work sample demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a student performing at grade A standard.