



STUFF AND DATA

challenges for research data management in the visual arts

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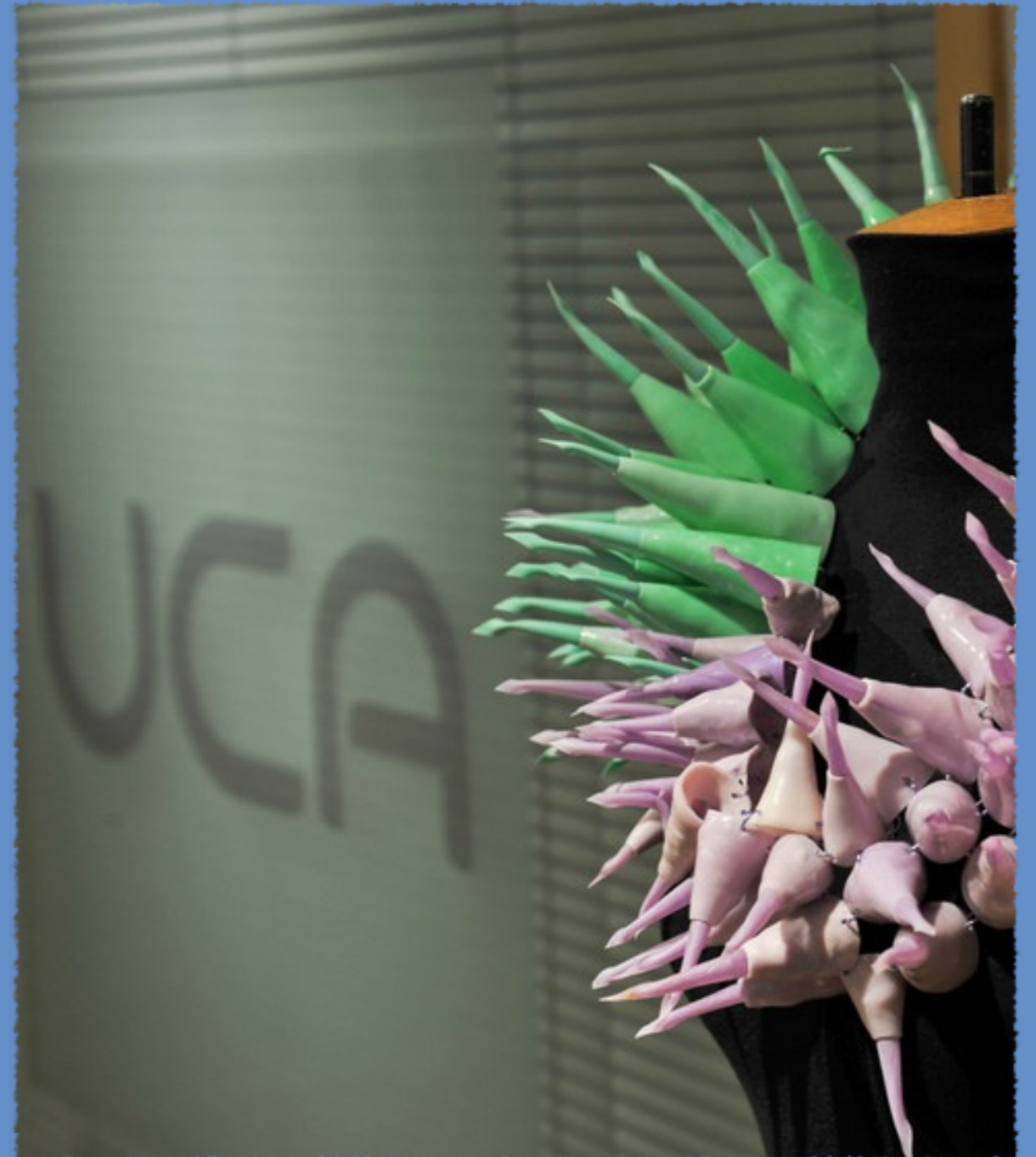
challenges for research data management in the visual arts

Leigh Garrett

Director

Centre for Digital Scholarship

University for the Creative Arts



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University for the Creative Arts

- 1866 Farnham School of Art
- 1867 Maidstone College of Art
- 1870 Guildford School of Art
- 1882 Canterbury School of Art
- 1886 Medway College of Design
- 1896 Epsom & Ewell School of Art
- 1948 Canterbury School of Architecture

- 2008 University for the Creative Arts
- 2010 Zandra Rhodes installed Chancellor



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University for the Creative Arts

- animation
- architecture
- ceramics
- film
- fashion
- fine art
- glass
- graphic design
- illustration
- interior design
- jewellery
- journalism
- photography
- product design
- silversmithing
- textiles

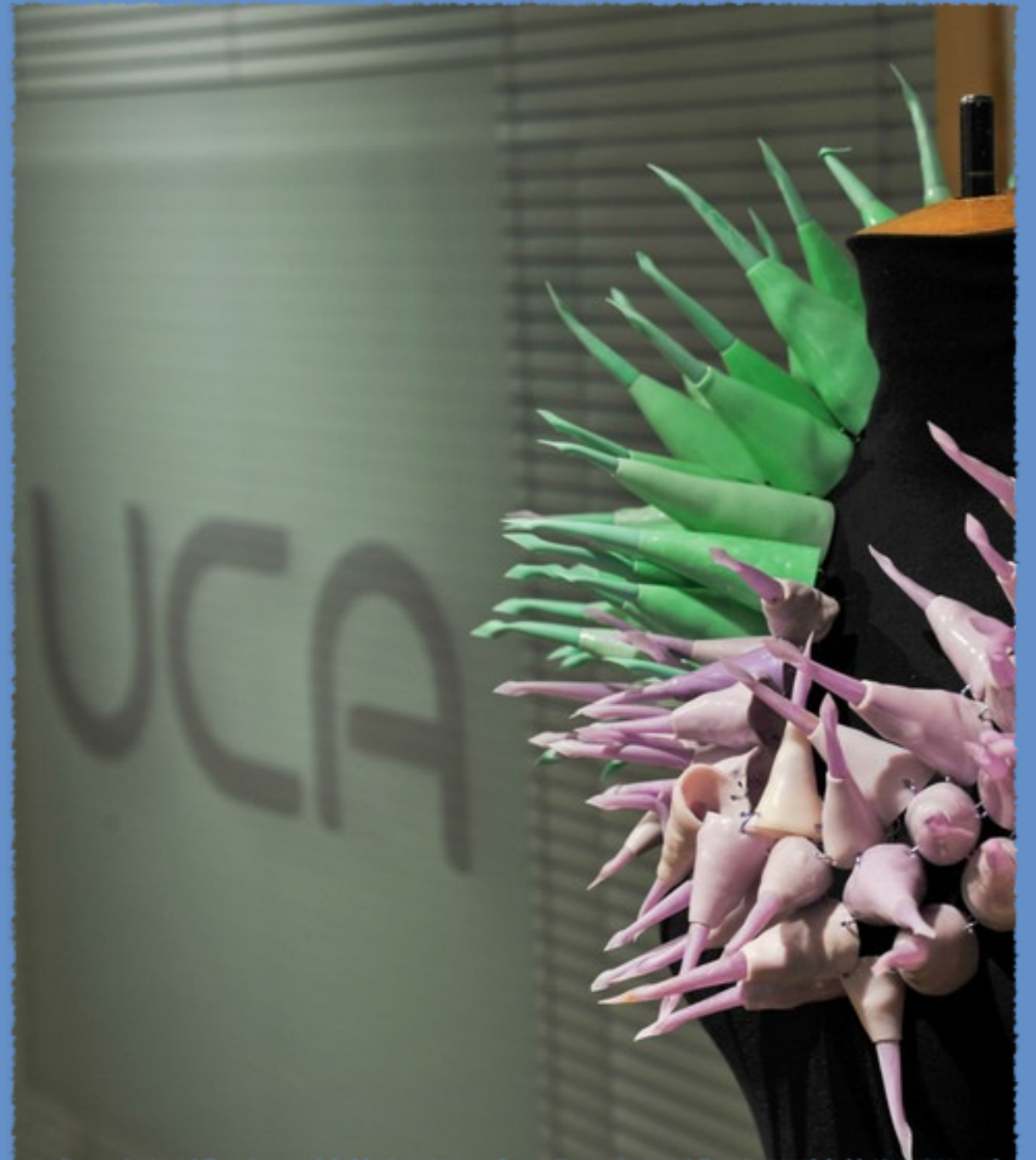


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Centre for Digital Scholarship

- 1996 visual arts data service established
- national repository for images and metadata: 120,000 items; 300 collections; range of learning and teaching resources; focuses on the visual arts; free for educational use
- <http://www.vads.ac.uk>

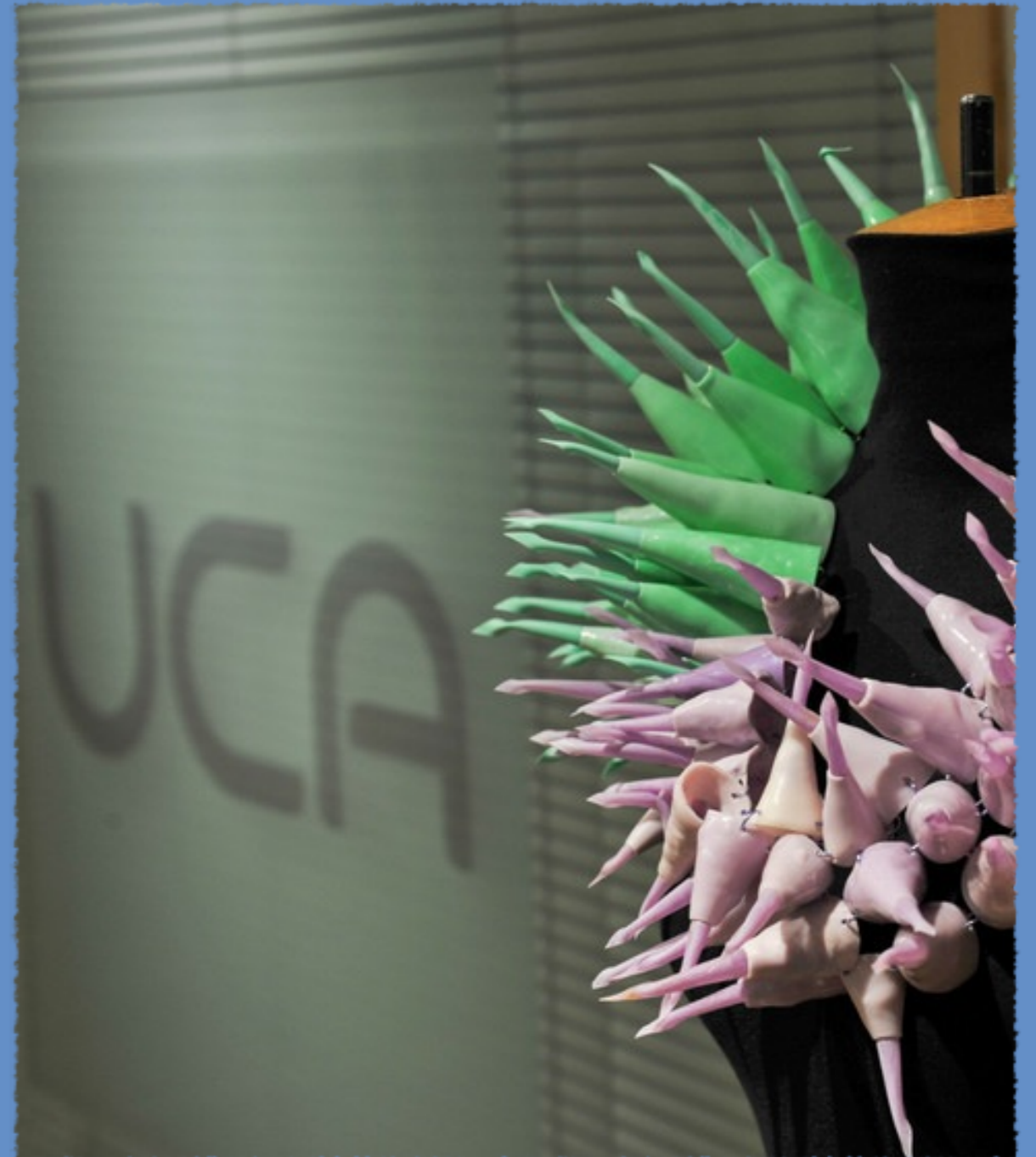


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Centre for Digital Scholarship

- 2008 granted status of research centre
- led and worked on a number of publicly funded projects within the field of digital asset management in the visual arts
- 2012 area of expertise widened to include the application of technology to learning, teaching and research



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Research Data Management

KAPTUR (2011-2013)

- explore the nature of research data
- recommendations for its management
- develop a model of best practice
- apply, test and refine the model
- disseminate the outcomes

VADS4R (2013-2014)

develop a series of workshops and toolkits
to engage early careers researchers and
students with research data management
practice

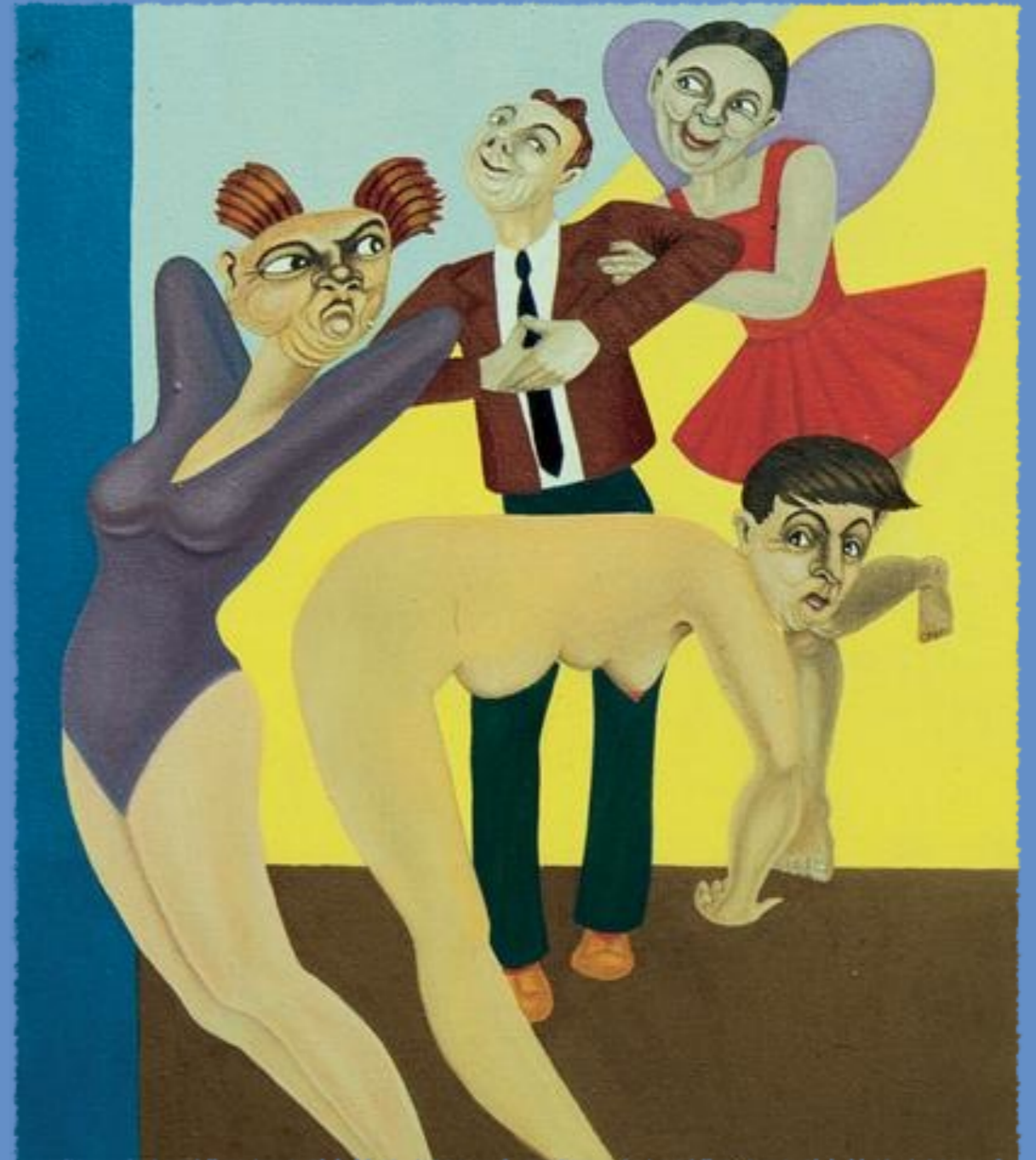


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Why manage research data?

- funder requirements
- demystify artistic methods
- enhance discoverability
- minimise data loss
- new applications
- reliability and validity
- new interpretations
- track impact more accurately
- semantic web tools can discover links
- promote research opportunities
- maximise value of public funding
- showcase and maximise impact

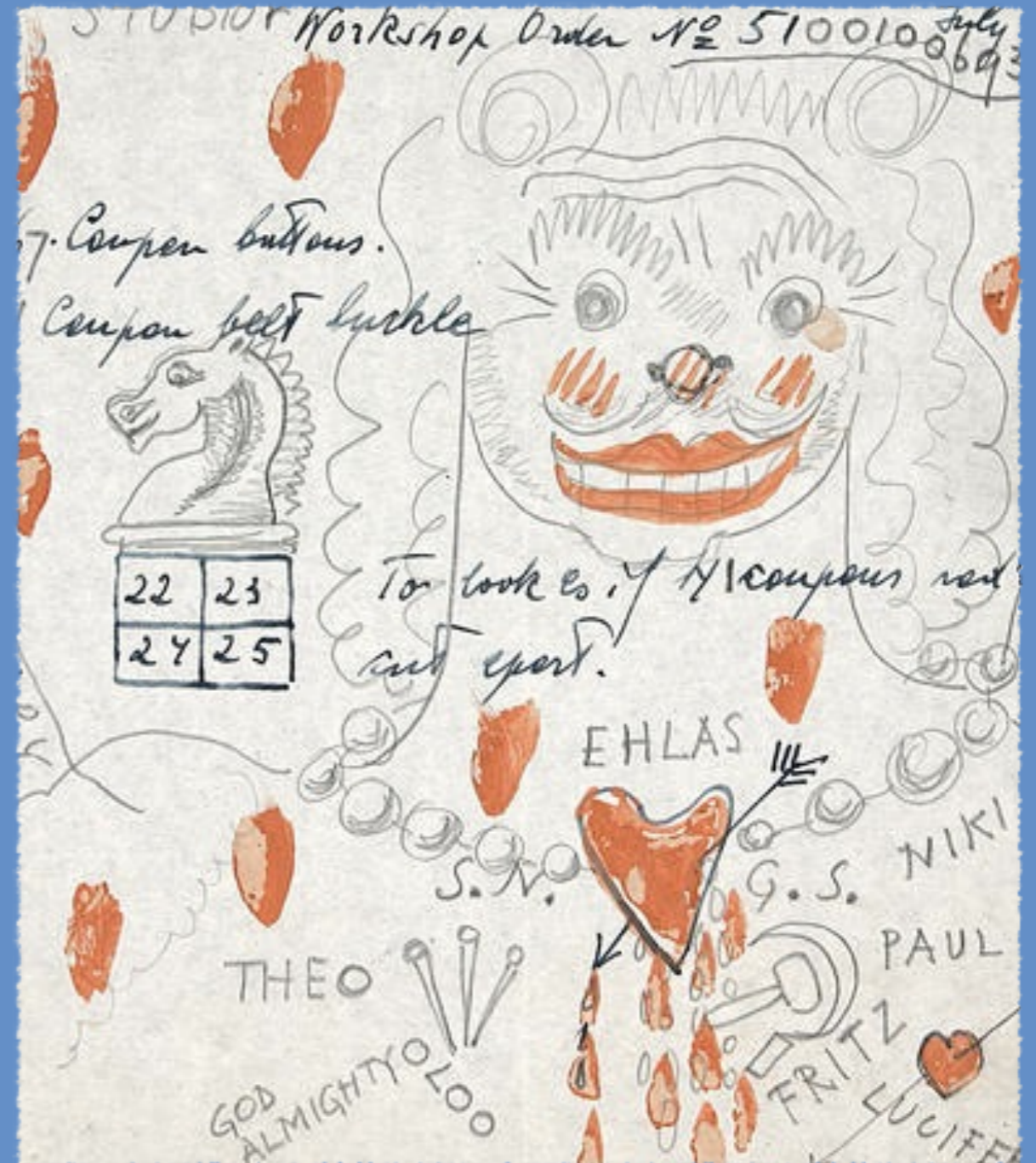


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Challenges

- defining research data
- institutional engagement
- infrastructure requirement
- managing research data
- capacity building
- service development





What is research data?

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Oh you mean stuff...

'...I'm just like anyone else I've got boxes of stuff, I've got a garden shed and then I've got files, I've got electronic files and I've got physical files, I've got ring binders full of clippings, full of photographs, and I've got documents of exhibitions that I've been in, I've got catalogues of exhibitions I've been to...'

Visual Researcher
KAPTUR Environmental Analysis (2012)



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Institutional engagement

Understanding

- purpose
- definitions
- funder requirements
- costs

Organisation

- institutional regulations
- contractual obligations
- policies, procedures and responsibilities

Practical

- staff and organisational change
- workload and priorities



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Institutional engagement

Each partner institution

- adopted a project sponsor
- objective of high level policy
- stakeholders identified
- established working group
- recommendations to committee
- policy approved



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Infrastructure requirement

Which technical system is most suitable for managing visual arts research data?

- selection criteria agreed
 - solution
 - storage
 - interface
 - system
 - institutional
 - additional requirements
- seventeen potential solutions identified



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Infrastructure requirement

Which technical system is most suitable for managing visual arts research data?

- scoring revealed five potential solutions
 - ePrints
 - DataFlow
 - figshare
 - fedora
 - ckan
- no solution met the requirements
- work is ongoing with partners, technology providers and funders





What do you need to consider when managing research data?

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What do you need to consider when managing research data?

- ethics, legal compliance, copyright and licensing
- naming conventions, metadata and documentation
- risks, data storage and backup
- standards and formats
- what to preserve, how and costs
- where to publish, to whom for how long and costs
- direction, roles and responsibilities



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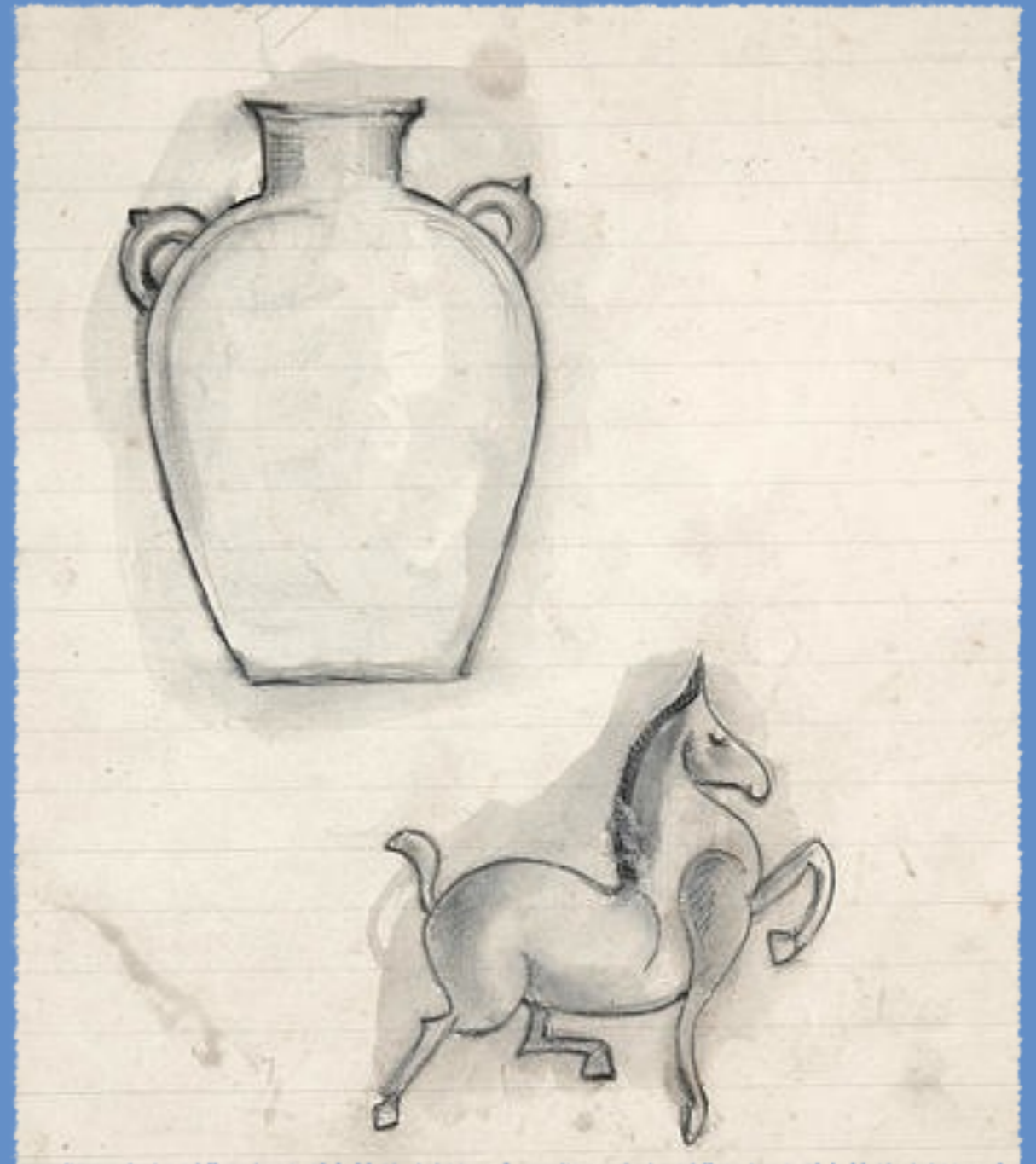
Capacity building

Changing research practice

- purpose
- terminology
- institutional perspective
- technology
- curation

Changing institutional culture

- engagement
- infrastructure
- interdependencies
- costs



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Capacity building

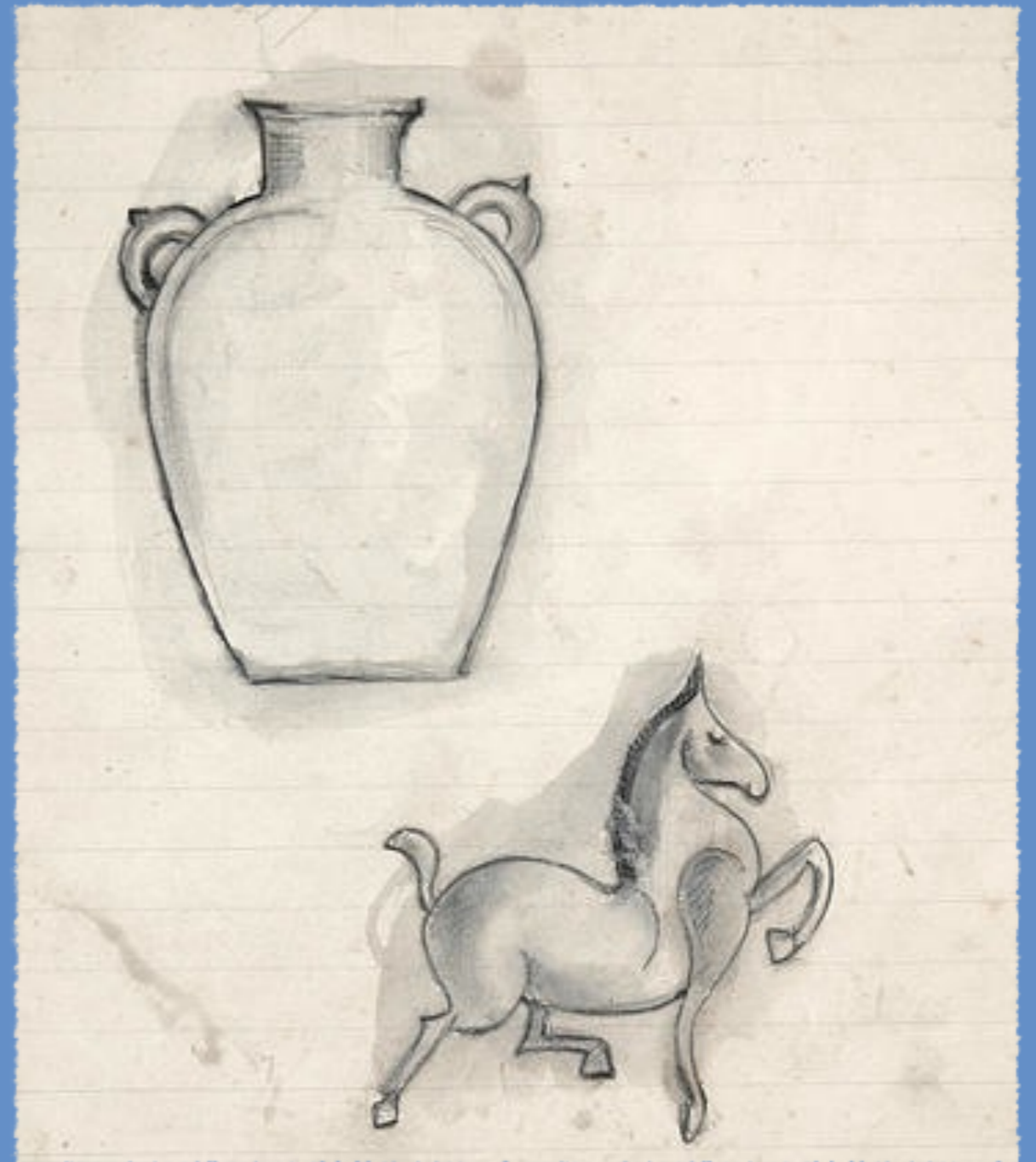
Internal dissemination

- creation of toolkits and training materials for researchers and professional support colleagues
- internal and national workshops

External dissemination

- partner case studies
- technical case study
- national and international conferences and papers

Project conference and workshops

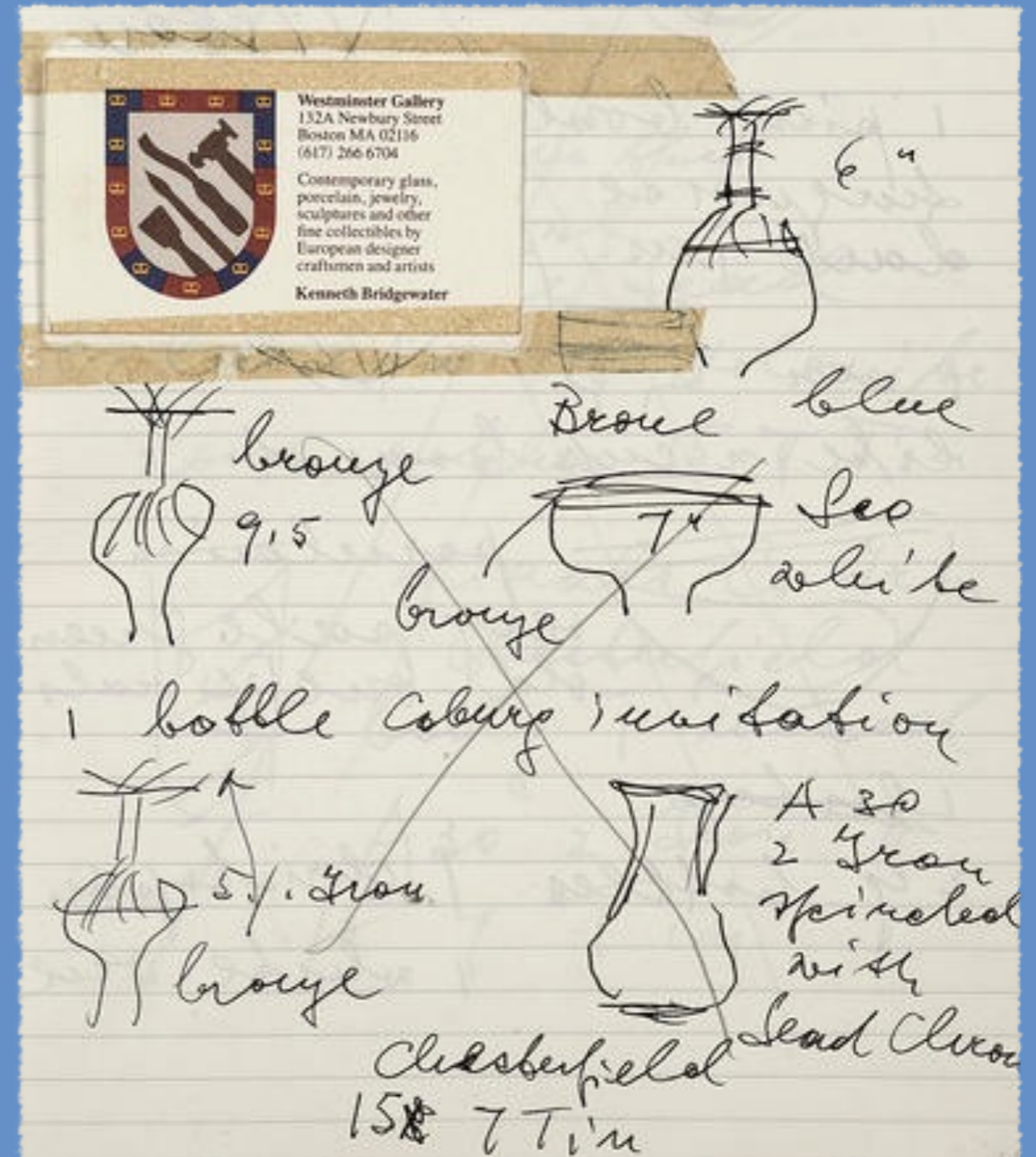


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Future work...

- directing, developing and embedding good practice
- our understanding of research data and research practice is evolving
- identify an effective technical solution



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Lessons

- interdepartmental dependencies
- external collaboration
- researcher engagement
- project sponsors



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Textiles Collection, University for the Creative Arts (1988) Tea cosy. Online at: <http://www.vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=31718>.



End of Year Degree Shows, University for the Creative Arts, UCA Rochester (2013).



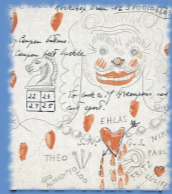
Zandra Rhodes, Chancellor, University for the Creative Arts.



Zandra Rhodes Digital Study Collection (1981) Zandra Rhodes. Online at: <http://www.vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=200470>.



Elaine Thomas (1983) Adopting a stance. Online at: <http://www.vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=52328>.



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Dr Simon Ofield-Kerr, Vice Chancellor, University for the Creative Arts.



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Katharine Pleydell-Bouverie, Craft Study Centre (1930s). Online at: <http://vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=74801>.



Lucie Rie Archive (1910s) Collation of sketches kept in a copy of the Architects Journal. Online at: <http://www.vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=22392>.



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Marianne de Trey, Craft Study Centre (1936). Online at: <http://vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=22157>.



BA (Hons) Three Dimensional Design (2009) University for the Creative Arts.