

Copyright is owned by the Author of the thesis. Permission is given for a copy to be downloaded by an individual for the purpose of research and private study only. The thesis may not be reproduced elsewhere without the permission of the Author.

Tracing Pathways

Exploring sense of place through
metaphor and material.

A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Design
Massey University, Wellington, New Zealand

Penny Ronald
2018

“When we look at the world as a world of places we see different things. We see attachments and connections between people and place. We see worlds of meaning and experience.”

- (Cresswell, 2004, p. 11)



Figure 1. My familys farm in Fairfax, 2017.

Abstract

This research project seeks to highlight local textile production by exploring the concept of place in the context of design practice. Focusing on the farm in Southland where I am from, weaving has been used as a metaphor in order to interpret the place conceptually as well as materially through using natural colorants and wool from New Zealand.

Notions of thinking through making have informed my design methodology, using the process of developing iterations of different drawings and designs to influence the resolve of the final outcome. The research celebrates residue of process, showing the constraints of what my physical body was able to weave in relation to the immensity of the farm landscape.

I have contextualized my final outcome of a woven pathway within the framework and principles of slow design, developing a provocation which aims to create discussion around localism and slow textile processes such as natural dye and weave. As is the goal of all slow design, the overarching aim is to contribute to the shift towards sustainability, with the suggestion that this project could be expanded to include different localities, or to influence designs of a commercial nature.

At the heart of this project is my passion for New Zealand wool. This is the key driver for my exploration and the material that is used throughout this project. I intend to highlight connections between the crossbred wool industry and localism by delving deeper into my family's farm where wool is grown. Through slow design, I intend to provoke the viewer to consider more holistically the connection between wool, and the area which it originates from.

The *thinking through making* framework has allowed me to authentically approach this research project as a journey, revealing the many layers of the farm and new pathways that have emerged as the project developed. I have chosen to order this exposition accordingly, describing new layers of research and design iterations as they have developed and then bringing the research together by examining slow design principles and localism.

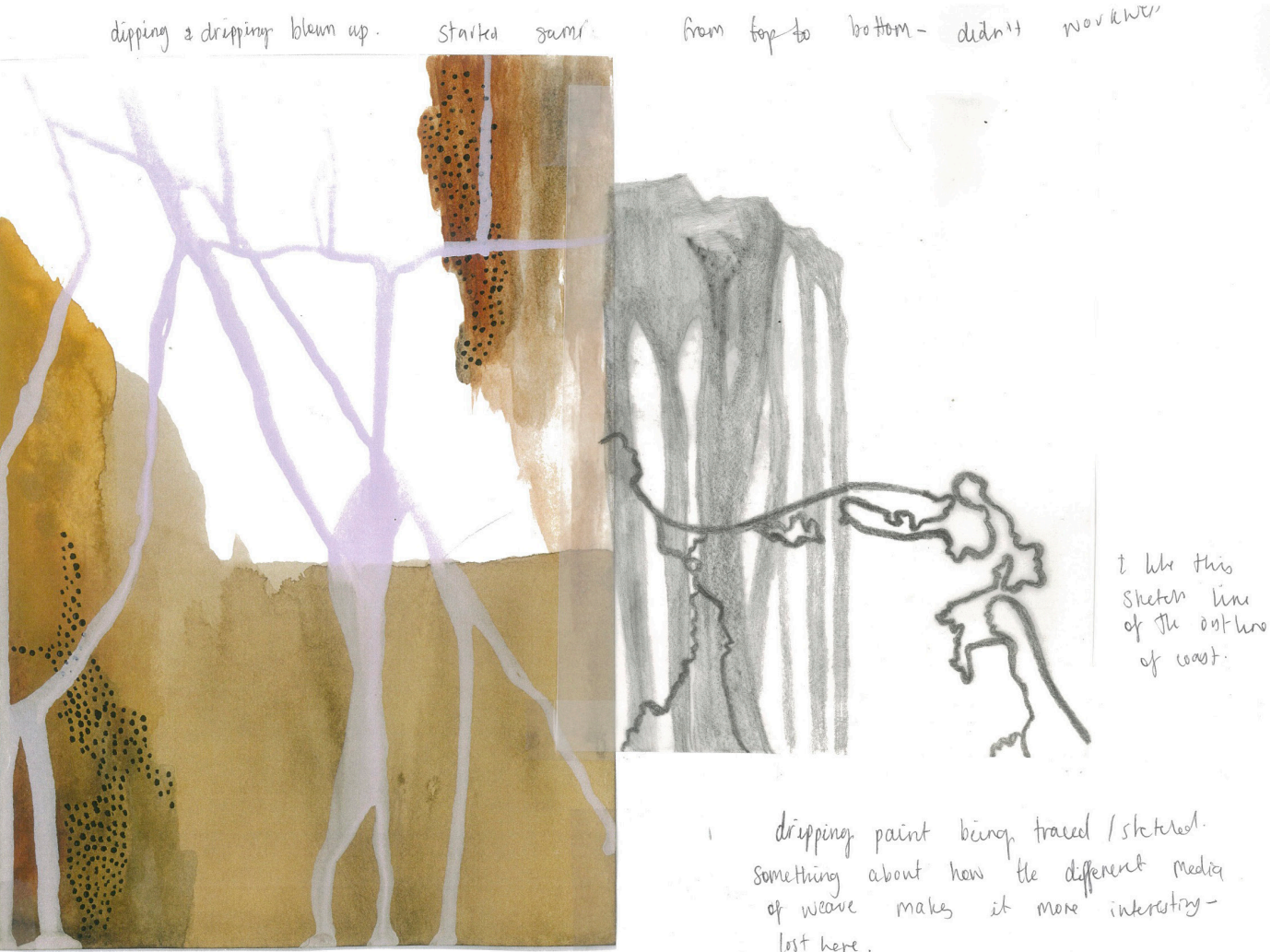


Figure 2. Workbook page exploring drawings of maps and movement.



Figure 3. Weaving on the AVL loom, Massey University Wellington, 2018.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Wool Yarns NZ for the Jim Woods Memorial Scholarship. Thank you to my supervisors Dr. Sandy Heffernan, and Dr. Faith Kane for your knowledge, support, and guidance, without which the pathways researched this year would not have stretched as far or as wide. Thank you to Dr. Caroline Campbell and the wider Massey University community for your feedback, encouragement and ideas. And lastly, thank you to my family, friends and the MESS crew, for keeping me motivated, caffeinated, and reassured.

Contents

Introduction: Mapping the Journey

46°12'46.3"S 168°02'18.7"E Farifax and the family farm

The current landscape of wool

Literature Review: Place as Metaphor

Place in current design practice

Defining place

Patterns and movement

Maps and pathways

Identity

Metaphor

Methodology: Embodiment of Method

Process

Movement

Liquid/ flow

Natural dye

Materiality

Findings

Locality and sustainability

Returning to place

Slow design

Speculative design

Final Design: Manifest

Conclusion

Reference list

Bibliography

Illustration list



Figure 4. My familys farm in Fairfax, 2017.