

worn

Footwear, Attachment
and the Affects of Wear

In a culture preoccupied with newness and a fashion system largely predicated upon it, what is the significance of worn clothes and why do they have the power to affect us so deeply? Bringing together anthropological and psychoanalytic theory with practices of handmaking, wearing, and photography, this book asks what is the embodied experience of wearing and the power of the worn?

Beautifully illustrated in full colour throughout, Worn highlights the beauty and value of imperfect garments and the power of the worn. Presenting the creases, crumples and stains, which litter our clothes, as evidence of lives lived and journeys taken, the book presents the wornness as an important yet often overlooked quality: one which has the potential to change our relationships to our clothes.

Through a focus upon a single garment, the shoe, this book calls on readers to reconsider the value of the marks of wear at a time when fast fashion reigns supreme and interest in used garments quietly increases.

“Evocative and thoughtful, [this] book eloquently explores the transformative relationships between ourselves and what we wear ... A joy to read.”

- ELIZABETH SEMMELHACK, THE BATA SHOE MUSEUM

“Beautifully written, entirely accessible, poignant and profound. It will resonate with us all.”

- AMY DE LA HAYE, LONDON COLLEGE OF FASHION

Ellen Sampson

Worn will be published by Bloomsbury Visual Arts on 10th December 2020

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/worn-9781350087187>



Reviews for “Worn”

“Perhaps more than any other media, worn dress can offer insights into lives lived and shoes, which over time alter to echo the contours of our feet, can be particularly redolent with meaning. Ellen Sampson’s exploration is beautifully written, entirely accessible, poignant and profound. It will resonate with us all.”

- AMY DE LA HAYE, LONDON COLLEGE OF FASHION, UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS LONDON, UK

“Sampson’s outstanding book explores the entanglements of object, subject, thing and theory with confident yet insightful deftness. This perceptive and timely exploration of the embodied, worn experiences around garments offers important methodological thinking that will help transform future fashion research.”

- HILARY DAVIDSON

“Ellen Sampson’s evocative and thoughtful book eloquently explores the transformative relationships between ourselves and what we wear. Using shoes as an entry point into this larger discussion, Sampson’s investigation of this entanglement is a joy to read.”

- ELIZABETH SEMMELHACK, THE BATA SHOE MUSEUM, CANADA

“Ellen Sampson’s book takes us on a powerful journey, helping us think through our physical and psychic entanglements with the worn, used clothing that forms the bulk of our own wardrobes. Using a practice-based approach, Sampson helps us creatively understand how objects “touch” us, challenging traditional views of fashion as commodity culture.”

- ALISON MATTHEWS DAVID, RYERSON UNIVERSITY, CANADA

Ellen Sampson is an artist, curator and material culture researcher. She is Vice Chancellor’s Fellow in Design at Northumbria University, UK and co-founder of the Fashion Research Network.

<http://www.ellensampson.com/worn-book>