

# MARY QUANT

Teaching  
Resource  
Textile design

**Fashion  
Revolutionary**  
20 March – 11 July 2021



Mary Quant, 1964. © Trinity Mirror / Mirrorpix / Alamy Stock Photo

BENDIGO  
ART GALLERY



## Quant and Textile design

Mary Quant's approach to designing and producing Fashion, Textiles, Accessories and Marketing was unique for the time. Quant incorporated design elements and principles that contributed to her being considered 'revolutionary' in the Fashion circles of the 50's, 60's and beyond.

**In Textile Design;** Design Elements are the basic building blocks of Textile Design and Production. For the purpose of the worksheet they are point, line, shape, form, texture, colour and type.

Design principles are accepted conventions that evolve from arranging the design elements. You may look at the design elements as the singular ingredients for designing and the principles as the recipes that can be used to put those together. The possibilities are endless, just as there are many recipes for mixing the same ingredients together.

For this worksheet the principles include; balance, contrast, hierarchy, scale, proportion, pattern, unity, conflict, emphasis, variety and movement.

Quant wanted her designs to exude energy and fun, like the swinging 60's of London.

As you wander through the exhibition list design elements you see the most and use the principles list above to assist in describing the overall feel of the show.

You are encouraged to draw and photograph, (no flash) some of those outcomes to support your written descriptions and answers to the questions.

Mary Quant experimented with materials to help create some of her new looks.

**List some of the materials** that were considered 'unusual' or 'new' for the time and place of her work.

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How did these materials support Mary Quant's endeavour to produce garments that were both practical and fun?

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In the 1960's Mary Quant used a material called Jersey to create a very comfortable dress. Today, Cotton Jersey is often used to make T-shirts. What fibre other than cotton has Mary Quant used for her Jersey garments? Why is this type of fabric so comfortable?

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Mary Quant also used fabric that was usually fashioned into men's suits. Why was it that she was considered to be pushing boundaries with a material such as this?.

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What other materials can you find throughout the exhibition that indicate movement into unusual materials for Fashion and Textiles of the time?

**Now illustrate the items these materials were used to produce, in the space below.**

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There are certain design elements and motifs that were used regularly throughout the Mary Quant exhibition, both in the garments and in display.

**Draw those elements below and describe how they were used. Suggest why you think these motifs were so popular among the younger demographic of Mary Quant's admirers.**

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