**Professor Helen Storey MBE**

**Biography**

**Professor of Fashion and Science, University of the Arts, London 2009**

**Co-Director of The Helen Storey Foundation 1999**

**Education and Background**BA (Hons) Kingston University 1982, Fashion. MA 1994

Trained at Valentino and Lancetti in Rome.1982 – 1984   
Visiting Professor, University of the Arts1998

Fellow, RSA 1999

Research Fellow, University of the Arts, February 2000

Honorary Professorship, Heriot Watt University, 2001

Honorary Professorship King's College London 2003

Visiting Professor of Material Chemistry, Sheffield University 2008

MBE for Services to The Arts – June 2009

Honorary Doctor of Science University of Sheffield 2012

Honorary Professor of Craft and Design (DJCA) University of Dundee 2012

Appointed to The Science Museum Advisory board for Culture 2013

**Business Career 1984 – 1995**Helen Storey launched a fashion label in 1984 and was awarded ‘Most innovative Designer’ and ‘Best Designer Exporter’ in 1990. She was nominated for British Designer of the year in 1990 and 1991, exporting to 24 countries selling to 150 shops worldwide with celebrity clients including Cher, Madonna and Liz Hurley. Helen enjoyed a high media profile, regularly appearing in national newspapers, TV and radio. Design clients and sponsors included; ICI, Sockshop, Wrangler, Cellnet, Alfa Romeo, Sony, British Airways, and BP. The trading arm of Helen Storey closed in June 1995. For more information on the Helen Storey Fashion Archive: <http://helenstoreyfoundation.org/pro1.htm>

**Career Development 1995 – 1996**In September 1996 Helen launched her autobiography "Fighting Fashion". Published by Faber & Faber Ltd, it was described by Sir Paul Smith as 'At last the truth - a perfect and witty account of life and British Fashion'. Helen worked on an important document for the fashion industry the "Designer Fact File", a guide to setting up a fashion business commissioned by the Department of Trade and Industry and the British Fashion Council, published with her business partner, Caroline Coates.

**1997-2000**

In 1998 Helen began work on *MENTAL*, a new art/science project for which Pfizer provided research funding. In 1999 the Helen Storey Foundation, a not for profit organisation promoting creativity and innovation was set up.

1998 to 2000 Helen was a 'Future' design and textile strategist for Coats Viyella and Marks & Spencer Plc. In 1998 to 1999 Helen sat on the National Advisory Committee for Creative and Cultural Education reporting to the then Secretary of State for Education, David Blunkett MP and Chris Smith MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Exhibitions:

*Primitive Streak* - The Wellcome Sci/Art Prize: Helen and her sister, biologist Dr Kate Storey, completed a ground breaking project 'Primitive Streak' which brought together the worlds of science and fashion through the creation of a fashion collection that explained the first 1000 hours of human life.

Education:

Visiting Professor, University of the Arts1998

Fellow, RSA 1999

Research Fellow, University of the Arts, February 2000

**2000-2002**Exhibitions:

*MENTAL* - A mixed media touring work exploring creativity, funded by two major awards and sponsorship was created and launched in April 2001; a world tour followed.

*Primitive Streak* continued touring. Helen’s academic duties included a research fellowship at University of the Arts, Professorships at Heriot-Watt University and King's College London and lecturing at Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen.

Education:

Honorary Professorship, Heriot Watt University, 2001

**2003**

A Primitive Streak and MENTAL catalogue was published in January 2003.

An audience research project, Play Garden, was completed with the Arts Council England.

The first co-authored paper by an artist and scientist was published in July 2003 in the Journal of Theoretical Biology entitled ‘Hotmail: - Can sex in humans be modified by temperature’, written by Dr John McLachlan in collaboration with Helen.

Helen was commissioned to create an installation event for the Unilever Global Advertising Awards - June 2003. A Lever Faberge installation was commissioned for the Persil brand in May 2003.

Exhibitions:

MENTAL continued touring England with the support of a Lottery/Arts Council England grant and a Glasgow-wide exhibition of MENTAL and Primitive Streak was undertaken.

Education:

Honorary Professorship King's College London 2003

**2004 - 2006**Creative Lab Project – cross - disciplinary teaching and learning for schools across the UK.

The Energy Project instigated, developed and run by the Helen Storey Foundation, The Women’s Sports Foundation and Creative Partnerships on behalf of the Department for Education and Skills. The project took the form of a piece of research assessing the levels of energy expended by 45 girls and their teachers in three schools in south London. It then explored imaginative ways to add physical activity to their learning and school week.

Artist in Residence at Unilever UK: "Thought Island", a new architectural space for employees for creative thinking.

Exhibitions:

Eye&I – a project exploring human emotion through eye contact, in collaboration with Professor Jim Coan, Neuroscientist, University of Virginia, funded by Arts Council England was exhibited in May 2005 and July 2006.

Primitive Streak was exhibited in Barcelona at Museum Textil d'Indumentaria, Feb-May 2005  
Films made include: "Eye and I", "Teacher Exchange", "4 Women" (for the Dove brand) and "Reactions".

**2005**

Exhibitions:

In 2005 WONDERLAND was conceived – A collaboration with Professor Tony Ryan OBE, at the University of Sheffield, exploring how new materials can make consumer products less damaging to the planet: <http://www.wonderland-sheffield.co.uk>

An ESPRC grant for £200,000 was awarded to WONDERLAND to introduce new material paradigms into the environment through high fashion and unique products created through dialogue across the art/science divide. This collaborative project has been developed with The University of Sheffield and University of Ulster. Other funders include Sainsbury, ACE and Arts & Business.

**2006**

Exhibitions:  
Primitive Streak was exhibited in August 2006 – March 2007 as part of an East Midlands Creative LAB at University of Derby. This took the form of a creative laboratory using Primitive Streak for teachers and young people with educational and creative risk taking activities for schools from 4 cities.

Mentoring activities: NESTA, Unilever, BBC, design students and fellow artists.   
Advisory work: The British Olympic bid for cultural activities and Cheltenham Festival of Science.

**2007**

IDEAS THAT CAN CHANGE THE WORLD was launched in Nov 2006. Conceived by Helen, the project asks young people to define the world they would like to live in, giving them the knowledge they need to imagine and generate creative and ethical solutions to our global challenges. It has been developed in collaboration with Creative Partnerships/Arts Council England and experts and industry specialists across 4 key themes. For further info: <http://helenstoreyfoundation.org/pro8.htm>

**2008 - 2009**

A new project, FREE RADICALS, brought together the Universities of The Arts London, Sheffield, Ulster and Westminster, mirroring the cross university, and cross disciplinary approach in WONDERLAND, NESTA funded this group in order to create a transferable blue print for social innovation within the HEI sector. The FREE RADICALS GROUP, continuing into 2009, researched, co-created new products and ideas to solve challenges facing the planet and human kind (current challenge, water shortage). <http://www.wearefreeradicals.co.uk>

Exhibitions:

Primitive Streak, now seen by 5 million people in 8 countries continues to tour.

The WONDERLAND project team produce new innovations in water purification, turning ‘plastic bottles into flowers’. Project reaches an audience of 11million. Wonderland is Shortlisted as Best International Fashion project by The Design Museum.

Education:

Visiting Professor of Material Chemistry, Sheffield University 2008

Awards:

Helen was awarded visiting Professor of Material Chemistry at Sheffield University in 2008

She was awarded the MBE for services to the Arts in June 2009.

**2010**

The ‘People’s Research Council’ is funded by The Wellcome Trust for its first phase.

A new way to bring the citizens of world into the heart of how research is defined conducted and funded.

Helen joins The Centre for Sustainable Fashion at London College of Fashion.

A further grant from the EPSRC, in collaboration with Sheffield University, allows the start of a radical new work entitled Catalytic Clothing, which seeks to deliver clothing and textiles that can purify air (NOX). The work, with over 25 cross sector partners in place, will be launched in Sheffield in October and a series of mass urban activities will take place for 2011. A film, starring Erin O’Connor with music by Radio Head launches this work to the public.

Exhibitions:

Primitive Streak wins a further Wellcome Trust grant, to up date and re tour the collection across 3 cities in the UK.

Awards/Shortlists:

Water Amnesty is shortlisted for The Green Gown Awards in the Social Responsibility category. WONDERLAND is shortlisted for the Condé Nast Traveller Innovation & Design Awards 2010, in the Sustainability category.

**2011**

The Catalytic Clothing (Catclo) film in collaboration with Adam Mufti reaches 300 million people through its viral campaign. See the “Living Map” which traces the spread of this project:<http://www.catalytic-clothing.com/>

The “Living Map” is in development as a new tool to globally track the impact of arts research generated projects through social media. See: http://www.catalytic-clothing.com/livingmap.html

Primitive Streak selected for The Wellcome Trust’s 75 Anniversary, along side the Genome project and the discovery of the Malaria vaccine. New film “ Breathe “ and the new Lung dress” also installed at Wellcome Trust. New web site launched:<http://www.primitive-streak.org/>

The “ Desire for More” project is scoped out – locating the preconscious origins of desire in the brain, in collaboration with the neuroscientist Professor Francis McGlone of Liverpool’s John Moores University and Professor Paul Downing of Bangor University.

Exhibitions:

Sponsored by Ecover - Catclo tours with 5 film premiers and 18 exhibitions, including showings in London, Moscow, Singapore, Brussels, Barcelona, Queensland Australia, Miami, Washington DC and across the UK.

Commission by The Royal Academy to create a new Wonderland exhibit for’ The Aware’ Exhibition, Nov 2011 – Jan 2012. (image created is used in advertisements across London Transport)

Wonderland tours to 6 countries in Europe with Futurotextiles 3000.

**2012**

Sponsorship deals with Ecover and Millennium Cristal Global for 2012.

New film product showcasing the Catclo project development – see: <http://www.catalytic-clothing.com/ccstoryfilm.html>

Exhibitions:

Catalytic Clothing continues to tour to Science Festivals, other venues and part of The British Council’s FP7 Nanotechnology initiative to 7 European countries.

Wonderland continues tour to Belgium and Poland with Futurotextiles 3000.

Education:

Awarded Honorary Professor of Craft and Design – University of Dundee (DJCA)

Awarded Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science – Sheffield University

Awards

Winner of the Conde Nast Traveler Award, for Best Design & Innovation for the Catalytic Clothing Project. (Sustainability category) 2012.

**2013**

Digital Primitive Streak Education Pilot at University of Dundee.

Meditation and talk as part of Edinburgh International Science Festival.

Began work on a new project with the MET office on Climate, working with other partners.

‘Climate change and Fashion hackathon’ as part of the Digital Design Weekend (part of London Design Festivals) at V&A.

British Council tour of 6 cities in China - Talks delivered with Prof Tony Ryan on Catalytic Clothing and Project Sunshine.

New film – Dress of Glass & Flame.

Appointed to The Science Museum Advisory board for Culture.

Exhibitions:

Catalytic Clothing – ‘Herself’ dress tour to 4 European cities – Futurotextiles 3

Fashion archive pieces shown as part of V&A Club to Catwalk: London Fashion in the 1980’s

Eye&I as part of Manchester Science Festival, shown at Manchester Arndale and Museum Of Science and Industry, October – November. http://www.eye-and-i.org

Objects of Truth, (Part 1) highlighting science truths in everyday lives – ‘Precious bag’ exhibited at Meadowhall Shopping Centre, Sheffield.

Field of Jeans at Thomas Tallis school – whole school project/ Catalytic Learning.

 ‘Dress of Glass and Flame’ exhibited at the 55th International Venice Biennale (Glasstress Project)- in collaboration with Berengo Studio, The Royal Society of Chemistry and London College of Fashion. <http://www.dressofglassandflame.org>

Education:

 ‘Catalytic Clothing Education workshop with teachers, in partnership with Institute of Education.

Awards:

Awarded for ESRC funded Transfer project, in collaboration with University of Sheffield

Press included:

Front cover of Kinfolk magazine

Catalytic Clothing featured in India Times

BBC Scotland on Primitive Streak

Hello Magazine

Sunday Times – Style Mag

British Vogue

**Websites:**

[www.fashion.arts.ac.uk](http://www.fashion.arts.ac.uk)

[www.helenstoreyfoundation.org](http://www.helenstoreyfoundation.org)

<http://www.catalytic-clothing.com/>

<http://www.primitive-streak.org/>

<http://www.dressofglassandflame.org/>

<http://www.sustainable-fashion.com/>

[www.showstudio.com/wonderland](http://www.showstudio.com/wonderland)

[www.wonderland-sheffield.co.uk](http://www.wonderland-sheffield.co.uk)

[www.wonderland-belfast.co.uk](http://www.wonderland-belfast.co.uk)

<http://www.wearefreeradicals.co.uk>

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